



JESUS is THE GREATEST

Jesus is the greatest

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Jesus is the Greatest

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Letter to the leaders

Our great call as the church is to tell the world the powerful message of salvation. All people are sinners, all people need saving, and so this message of salvation is the most important we can tell another person. But salvation is not just a message. Salvation is a person. Salvation is Jesus. Salvation is hearing about Jesus, believing in who Jesus tells us He is, and then choosing to follow Jesus. Jesus is our greatest message and the greatest person we need in our life.

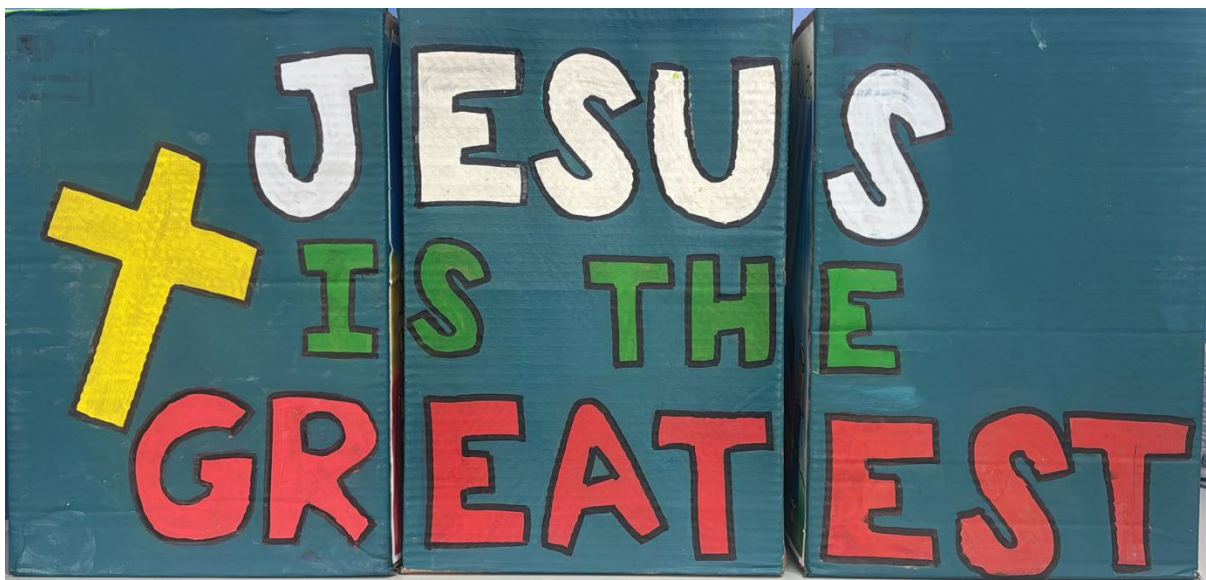
So it is with joy and privilege that we get to tell our children across the city all about who Jesus is. Jesus is central to our faith, to our identity, to our hope and future. Make every effort this term to keep talking about Jesus. Each lesson this term will focus on a specific characteristic or attribute of Jesus, but then also see how they all overflow because they are all about Him.

A suggestion to even try to do through the term is to pray into these qualities of Jesus when we pray together, for example:

Thank you Jesus that you **created** the beauty of this world, and thank you Jesus that you are our **Shepherd**. Please watch over us and care for us as a Shepherd. Thank you that you **are God** and you can do **miracles**. We bring to you our sick family and friends for healing. Thank you that you are our **Saviour**, and that we have fullness of life because of You.

Try with every lesson to give children the opportunity to declare faith in Jesus and ask Him to save them and give them life.

Our hope is that by the end of this series, our children will know Jesus, know who He is, believe and follow Him, and then tell others the greatest message...Jesus.



Stick the weekly posters from the media pack onto three boxes. You will use this

Lesson 1: Jesus is our Creator

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus existed before the world was created.
- All things were made through Jesus' power.
- Jesus took care in creating you.

1) Memory Verse

- Colossians 1:16

“Through Jesus’ power all things were made: things in Heaven and on Earth, seen and not seen” (ERV)

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Use the following actions to help the children learn the verse

Say:	Action:
Through Jesus’	Point up
Power	Show muscles
All things were made	Make a big circle with your arms
Things in Heaven	Jump with your arms up high
And on the earth	Touch the ground
Seen	Make your hands like binoculars
And not seen	Cover your eyes

Imagine you were created as a rabbit. How would you say the verse? What if you were a fish, or an elephant, or a tree? But thankfully, God created you just as you are, so say it like wonderful you!

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- Posters of the animals to discuss each one or
Use the following link to show them the video clip
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0ZF1KVnqOBY> Jesus is our Creator -
Leader Resource

Every day we walk around and see the beautiful things around us. We see trees, flowers, birds, blue skies and so much more. *(Let the children name things.)*

But often we’re too busy or so used to seeing these things that we forget to stop and look at them and remember who they were created by and who they were created for. And if we look a little closer we will see just how amazing Jesus, our Creator, is.

Wood frog

What is this? (*A frog*) If we saw this little frog we'd say, "Oh there's another frog" but let's look a little closer. This frog is frozen! If I had to pick him up he'd be as hard as a rock. Where this frog lives the temperatures can get as low as **minus 15°C**. This little frog had to be perfectly designed so that he could survive. And that's exactly what Jesus did! When this frog touches a little piece of ice it sends a message to his brain to move his heart and lungs close together, surround them in some sugar water and then ... **freeze!** When he is frozen his heart stops and he doesn't even breathe anymore! And he can stay frozen for seven months!



Even more amazing than that is when the sun starts to shine he starts to melt again ... **but from the inside out!** Can you imagine a block of ice melting from the inside? Biologists are puzzled how the frog does it and have been studying it for years. But Jesus knew the frog would need his heart and lungs again and so that's how He made him. Just perfect! What an awesome creator Jesus is.

Hippopotamus

Oh to be a hippo lazing in the sun all day? But then again imagine the sunburn! But wait a minute, why doesn't a hippo get sun burnt? Jesus knew that a hippo would be out in the sun all day and so He did what He does with everything He makes... makes it perfectly.



A hippo is able to secrete, that sort of means sweat out, an oily red fluid that acts like sun cream. Not only that but this oil also acts as a skin moisturizer, water repellent and antibiotic. Wow, how amazing is that! Sun cream in your sweat! What a thoughtful creator Jesus is.

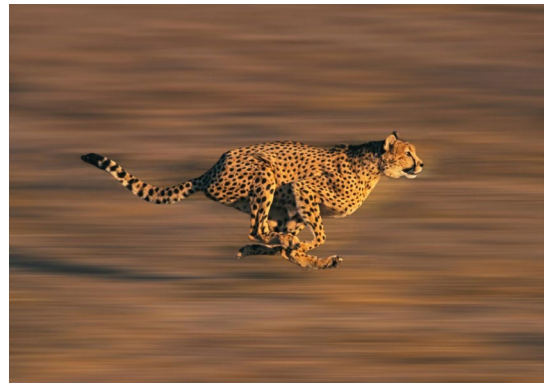
Mantis shrimp

Scientists keep studying all these beautiful creations to try to understand and even copy how they work. Take the manta shrimp for example. It has a punch so hard that it lets off a force as strong as a bullet! But it was made with some sort of shock absorber so that its soft shell doesn't shatter. Jesus really is such a powerful creator who thinks of everything.



Cheetah

There are so many amazing things around us and even though we know some amazing things about them, like that a cheetah can run really fast, if we look a little closer we can see how perfectly Jesus has designed everything. Did you know that Jesus made it so that a cheetah can dislocate their shoulder so that it can throw its legs forward further to get to these speeds?



Pippa Pippa toad (Surinam toad)

If you think the name of this toad is strange, wait until you find out what this toad can do!

This toad lives in the Amazon river where there are lots of fish, like piranhas, which want to eat them. So how does a mommy toad look after her eggs to keep them safe? She carries them in her skin! Yes, you heard me correctly. Jesus made this frog with tiny little pockets on her back to keep her babies safe as they grow, not into tadpoles, but into fully formed frogs! These little frogs are really flat so they can immediately swim and hide in the long reeds!



These are only a few of the many amazing things that Jesus has created. We don't need to understand how Jesus did these things, only that He did. The next time you go outside, stop and look at all the things around you. Let them remind you what a powerful and perfect creator Jesus is.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Lump of playdough=
- Creation numbers
- Verse to add in the name JESUS

We love to celebrate Christmas and think about the day Jesus was born. And what a celebration that day is. It was the start of Jesus' life as a person on Earth which would show us what God is like and how to live a life that pleases God. Most importantly, it was the day everyone had been waiting for, the day our Promised Saviour came. But this wasn't the beginning of Jesus' life. Jesus is God and so has always been alive. (Wow that is a big truth to understand!)

Because Jesus has always lived, with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, that

means that Jesus was part of creating the whole world and people. Jesus is our creator.

Today we are going to look at Jesus our Creator.

1. Jesus has always existed

“Christ is the visible image of the invisible God. He existed before anything was created and is supreme over all creation.” Colossians 1:15 NLT

Close your eyes and picture all the wonderful things created in our world: the trees, animals, clouds, sun, people laughing. Now picture what it was like before anything was created. Picture nothing: no light, no air, no animals, just nothing. It is hard for us to imagine nothing, right? Well in that moment of nothing Jesus was already there. Jesus already existed. No one created Jesus, He just was. He does not depend on anything to be alive and He is eternal. That means He will exist forever and ever. No one can stop Him from existing.

You might think, huh? I don't understand. Things need to be created by something or someone. But together with God the Father and the Holy Spirit, Jesus is God. He is supreme over everything. Jesus is the Creator.

2. Jesus created everything

Stick up the verse with the missing words. As you read it from the Bible, write in the word “JESUS” to complete it.

For through **Him** God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. **He** made the things we can see and the things we can't see- such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through **Him** and for **Him**. Colossians 1:16

For through _____ God created everything in the heavenly realms and on earth. _____ made the things we can see and the things we can't see- such as thrones, kingdoms, rulers, and authorities in the unseen world. Everything was created through _____ and for _____ .

Colossians 1:16

Jesus, our Creator, created everything: the sun that rises each morning, the birds you hear singing, your heartbeat were all made by Jesus. Even the things we cannot see were created by Jesus too.

In Genesis, we see that God the Father, Jesus, and the Holy Spirit were all there in the beginning. We see their great power by them simply speaking and all of creation came into being.

Place the lump of playdough in front of the children.

Tell the playdough to be a tree. What? It didn't work? Tell it to be a fish? Still nothing? When we speak, we just make a noise. But, wow, God is so great as when He speaks things are created!

In just six days, what was once nothing became this incredible universe we live in.

Read through each of the posters of what was created in merely six days. Each time end by saying "and God said "It is good.""

On day



God created light & dark, day & night
Genesis 1:3-5

On day



God created the sky
Genesis 1:8

On day



God created plants & trees
Genesis 1:11-12

On day



God created sun, moon & stars
Genesis 1:16

On day



God created fish & birds
Genesis 1:20

On day



God create animals & people
Genesis 1:25 & 27

3. Everything was created for Jesus

"Everything was created through Him and for Him." Colossians 1:16

Creation is not random but rather purposefully made. It shows Jesus' creativity, love, care, power and perfection. We can see creation pleasing God as said over and over, "It is good". Creation exists to bring Jesus glory. We were created for Jesus. He formed us into His image and breathed life into us. The Bible even tells us that each one of us is formed and knit together in our mother's womb! We are made perfectly for the plan God has for each one of us, each in His image. (Jeremiah 1:5)

When we worship, obey, love others and use our gifts for Jesus we are living the way we were created to live.

4. Jesus holds everything together

"He existed before anything else, and He holds all creation together."
Colossians 1:17

Did you know that even a small change in the earth's position and the sun would either burn it up or cause it to freeze? Everything has been perfectly placed.

Jesus is actively holding the universe together right now: planets stay in orbit, seasons continue, the water cycle you learn about at school, that is all Jesus! Life continues all because Jesus is holding it all together.

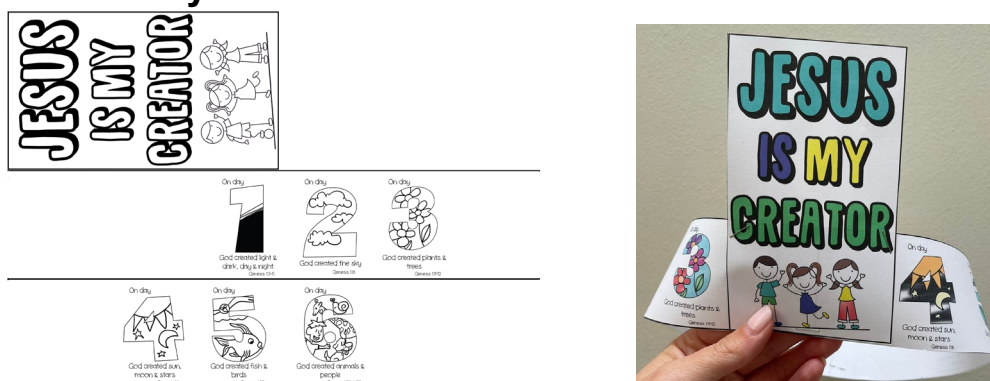
Yes, it is wonderful to celebrate Jesus' life when He lived on earth as a man. But it is even more wonderful to celebrate Him as the perfect Creator He truly is. He is the Creator who has always existed, the Creator who made everything, the Creator who made us and everything else for Him and the Creator who holds everything together. Wow! Jesus, our Creator, is the greatest!

4) Review Questions:

- Who was there at the time of creation? (*God the Father, Jesus and the Holy Spirit.*)
- Has there ever been a time without Jesus? (*No, Jesus has always existed and will always exist.*)
- What did Jesus create? And who for? (*Everything, things seen and unseen were created by Jesus and for Jesus.*)

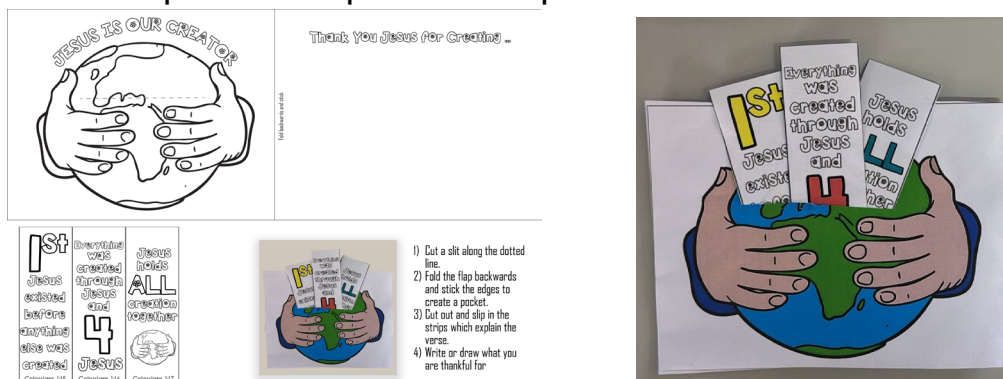
5) Craft

Option 1: Jesus is my Creator Headband



Option 2: Jesus is our Creator Colossians 1:15-17

- Cut a slit along the dotted line.
- Fold the flap backwards and stick the edges to create a pocket.
- Cut out and slip in the strips which explain the verse.



Lesson 2: Jesus is the Promised One

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus met all the prophecies perfectly. He is the Promised One.
- Who did the people in the Bible say Jesus was?
- Who do you say Jesus is?

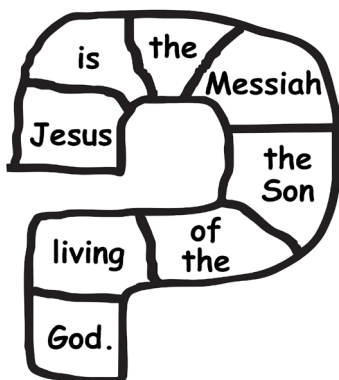
1) Memory Verse

- Matthew 16:16

“Simon Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Teach this verse as part of the lesson, making sure to first explain the terms Saviour and Messiah.



Jesus asked His disciples the question “Who do you say I am?”

If Jesus asked you this question what would you answer? *(Let the children answer)*

Build the puzzle to work out the answer: “Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God.” You may use your Bible.

Have question marks hidden around the venue. When they find one, the leader asks “Who is Jesus?” and they reply “Jesus is the Messiah, the Son of the living God”.

Matthew
16:16

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- A variety of socks
- 2L tub of beads with one distinctly marked
- Clipboard of prophecies *(To save paper print only the two pages provided and use scrap paper behind to show there were so many more.)*

A message from God about what will happen in the future is known as a prophecy. God promised His people that He would send a Saviour or Messiah who would come and save the world. To make sure there was no mistaking who this was, God also sent about 355 prophecies telling us exactly what the Promised Saviour would be like. These can all be found in the Old Testament of the Bible.

Ministry in Galilee (Isaiah 9:1-2)	Matthew 4:12-16	✓
Miracles: healing blind, deaf, lame (Isaiah 35:5-6)	Matthew 9:27-35, John 9:1-7	✓
Preached good news to the poor (Isaiah 61:1-2)	Luke 4:16-21	✓
Entered Jerusalem riding on a donkey (Zechariah 9:9)	Matthew 21:1-9	✓
Betrayed by a friend (Psalm 41:9)	John 13:18	✓
Sold for 30 pieces of silver (Zechariah 11:12-13)	Matthew 26:14-16	✓
Money thrown into the temple (Zechariah 11:13)	Matthew 27:5	✓
Silent before accusers (Isaiah 53:7)	Matthew 27:12-14	✓
Spat upon (Isaiah 50:6)	Matthew 26:67, 27:30	✓
Beaten (Isaiah 53:5)	Matthew 27:26	✓
Hands and feet pierced (Psalm 22:16)	Luke 23:33, John 20:25-27	✓
Crucified with criminals (Isaiah 53:12)	Luke 23:32-33	✓
Buried in a rich man's tomb (Isaiah 53:9)	Matthew 27:57-60	✓
No bones broken (Psalm 34:20)	John 19:33-36	✓

Bring in a variety of socks for the children to compare and match. Make sure some of them look very similar e.g. have spots, stripes, similar colour etc. It is the same with the Promised Saviour. He needed to match every single one of the prophecies perfectly.

Have you ever opened your sock drawer and found a pile of socks that don't have a match? I have a big pile of unmatched socks here! Let's see if we can find the one that matches perfectly.

As you go through them one by one point out that although some of the socks may be very similar such as they are the same colour, or both have stripes, some may even be used for the same thing like sport or bed socks, but in order for them to be a perfect match they have to be exactly the same in every way.

We had to look very carefully to find the perfect match. A perfect match must be exactly the same in every way, same colour, same pattern, same size, everything!

It's the same with the Promised Saviour. He had to match every single prophecy perfectly. Not almost. Not close. But exactly a perfect match. And a perfect match to every single one of the 355 promises made about Him. *(Refer to the clipboard of prophecies)*

Let me show you how incredible it would be to find someone that matched only **eight** of these promises.

(Use the 2L tub of beads with one distinctively marked.)

If I filled this 2L tub with beads, there would be about 90,000 inside. If I marked one of these beads in a special way, mixed it back into the tub, closed my eyes and picked just one bead, what chance do you think I would have to pick the marked bead? *(Ask the children their thoughts.)*

The chance of picking that exact bead would be 1 in 90,000. Those are not good odds.

But the chance of someone accidentally matching just **eight** of the promises about the Saviour is way, way, way bigger than that. You would need at least a trillion tubs of beads like this! And Jesus didn't match just **eight**. He matched them all.

No one else throughout history matched all of the prophecies (not even half). Jesus is the only one who did. This tells us something very important. This was not an accident! This was God's plan. Jesus completing all of the prophecies confirms that He is the Messiah, God's Promised Saviour for us.


3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Posters “Who do they say I am?” and “Who do you say I am?”
- Pictures of John, Elijah, Jeremiah and Jesus.


**Who do
they say
I am?**

**Who do
you say
I am?**




Who am I?
I was Jesus' cousin.
I told people about God and to turn back to Him.
I always spoke the truth, even when leaders didn't like it.
Herod got angry, had me arrested, and later killed.
When Herod heard about Jesus, he was afraid I had come back from the dead. (Mark 6:16)
I kept telling others that Jesus is the chosen one of God. (John 1:34)
I am ...

John




Who am I?
I was a prophet.
I was a man of God. (1 King 17:24)
I passed on God's message.
Moses said God would raise up a great Prophet but that was not me.
I did not fulfil the prophecies about the Messiah.
I am ...

Elijah



Who am I?
I was a prophet.
God put His words in my mouth. (Jeremiah 1:9)
I passed on God's message.
Moses said God would raise up a great Prophet but that was not me.
I did not fulfil the prophecies about the Messiah.
I am ...

Jeremiah



Who am I?
I am a prophet.
I am God's Son (Matthew 3:17)
I am the Promised One, the Messiah.
I am the Saviour who takes away the sin of the world. (John 1:29)
I am the only way to God. (John 14:6)
I am the great prophet Moses said God would raise up.
I fulfilled all of the prophecies about the Messiah. (2 Corinthians 1:20)
I am ...

Jesus

Before we begin let's remind ourselves what the words **Messiah**, **Promised Saviour** or **Promised One** mean. All three of these names refer to the same chosen or anointed person who God would send to save the world from their sin. The Messiah is God's promised Saviour, chosen by God to save people from sin and death. The Messiah is Jesus.

Jesus sat with His disciples and asked them two questions. Let's read the Bible to see what they were.

When Jesus came to the region of Caesarea Philippi, He asked His disciples, "Who do people say that the Son of Man is?" Matthew 16: 14 *Hold up the first question "Who do they say I am?" and let the children say who the people said Jesus was.*

"Well," they replied, "some say John the Baptist, some say Elijah, and others say Jeremiah or one of the other prophets." Matthew 16: 14

Use the pictures of each character to explain who the people thought Jesus was.

John the Baptist:



John

Some people thought Jesus was John the baptiser. John was Jesus' cousin and they were only six months different in age. Both John and Jesus fearlessly told everyone about God. They always spoke the truth proclaiming the need for all people to turn back to God, even if it meant going against religious leaders who had made up their own rules instead of following God's. Herod was one of these leaders and he got so angry with John teaching others this truth that he had John arrested and later killed.

When Herod heard about Jesus, he was scared that John had been raised from the dead and was back teaching again. That is why some people thought Jesus was John, raised back from the dead. (Mark 6:16)

Was this true? No! Long before either Jesus or John was born a promise was made that a messenger would be sent to prepare the way for Jesus (Malachi 3:1 and Isaiah 40:3-5). John was this messenger (John 1). He was going to start the work that Jesus would continue and complete. So John was an answer to *one* of God's many promises about the Messiah. But only Jesus fulfilled them all.

Many people thought that John was the promised Messiah but he made sure to tell them that he was not.

"He who is coming after me is mightier than I, and I am not even fit to remove His sandals" Mathew 3:11.

And when he saw Jesus he said, "I testify that He (Jesus) is the Chosen One of God." John 1:34.

Elijah, Jeremiah or one of the other prophets:

A prophet is someone who gets a message from God and tells it to other people. A long time ago, Moses told the people that God would raise up a great prophet. (Deuteronomy 18:15)



Elijah

Elijah was chosen by God to be a prophet. He was a man of God and did many hard things that God asked him to do. (1 King 17:24) He knew things that only God could have told him.

Jeremiah was also a prophet chosen by God. God even put His words in Jeremiah's mouth to pass on His message to the people. (Jeremiah 1:9)



Jeremiah

Jesus knew and taught people things only God could know, so they knew He must be a prophet. Some people thought "Could this be Elijah or Jeremiah who has returned". While these prophets were telling others God's message they were not fulfilling all the prophecies like Jesus did, they were not God's son and they were not the Promised One. The great prophet Moses spoke about was Jesus.



Jesus

Then Jesus asked them another question.

(Hold up the second question “Who do you say I am?” and let the children say who the disciples said Jesus was.)

Let’s read the Bible and see what the disciples answered.

¹⁵ Then He asked them, “But who do **you** say I am?” ¹⁶ Simon

Peter answered, “You are the Messiah, the Son of the living

God.” ¹⁷ Jesus replied, “You are blessed, Simon son of John,

because My Father in heaven has revealed this to you. You did not learn this from any human being. Matthew 16:15-17

What do you think Jesus told him to do next?

- a) “Go and tell everyone that I am the Messiah, the Son of the living God.”
- OR
- b) “Do not tell anyone!”

Then He ordered His disciples not to tell anyone that He was the Messiah. Matthew 16:20

What? I thought we are supposed to tell everyone Jesus is the Messiah. Remember all the prophecies we learnt about earlier? Jesus had to do them all in His perfect timing so that no one could deny He is the Promised Messiah. There are many times in the Bible where Jesus says “the time has not come” or “the time is coming.” This is because Jesus had everything under control.

But now that Jesus has died for our sins and is alive in Heaven, His instructions to us is to tell everyone, all nations, that He is the Messiah.

4) Review Questions:

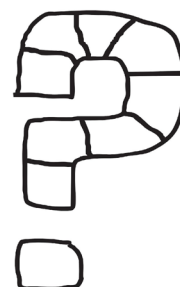
- a) Who do you say Jesus is? Do you know Him personally? *(Let the children answer.)*
- b) How can we help others know who Jesus really is? *(Tell them, show them through how we live, invite them to church to learn about Him, pray and ask Jesus to reveal Himself to them, give them a Bible to read.)*

5) Craft

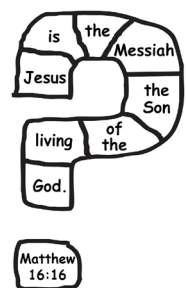
Option 1: “Who is Jesus to me?” poster

Provide each child with a poster for them to write or draw things about who Jesus is to them. Give them their own memory verse puzzle to cut up and add to their poster.

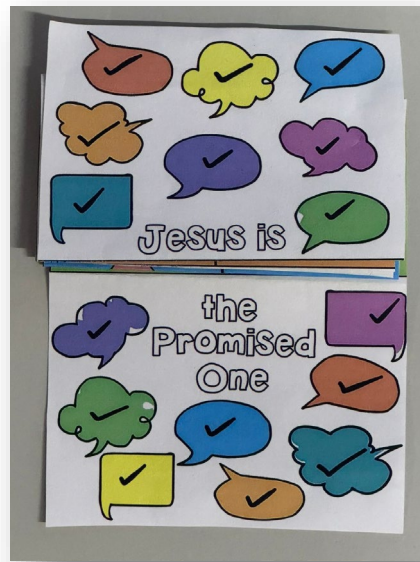
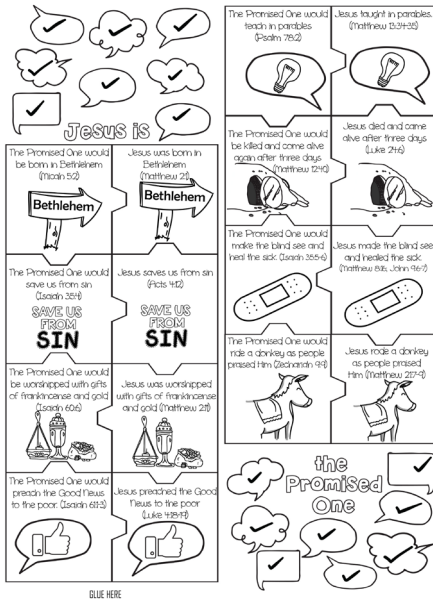
Who is Jesus to me?
Stick the memory verse into the puzzle and fill the page with who Jesus is to you.



Cut and paste the verses onto the activity page.



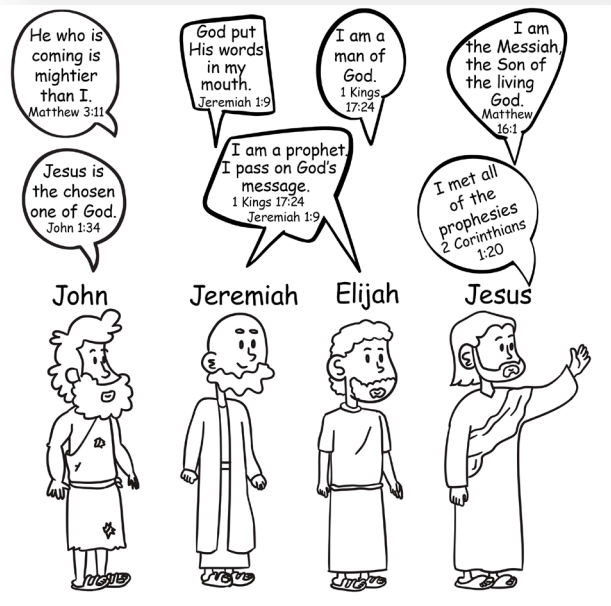
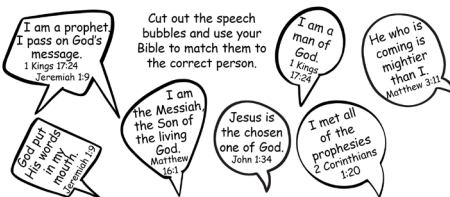
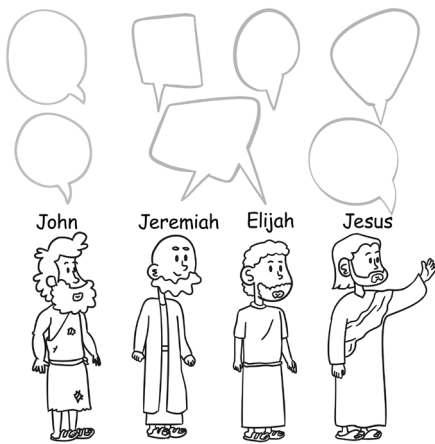
Option 2: Jesus is the Promised One (Unfolding craft)



- 1) Cut the page from top to bottom down the centre.
- 2) Glue the bottom of the left-hand strip of the page to the top of the right-hand strip of the page to make a long, narrow sheet.
- 3) Then, concertina fold the page at the horizontal line of every puzzle piece, starting by folding the first part backwards. After folding back-and-forth until the end, you will have a small book with a cover that says "Jesus is the Promised One" which will open into a puzzle piece pair that shows the verse for each promise and its matching fulfilment.

Option 3: Who said what

Children cut and match the speech bubbles to the correct person.



Lesson 3: Jesus is God's Son

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus is God's Son.
- God loves us so much, that He gave us His Son to die for us.
- Jesus is fully God and fully man.

1) Memory Verse

- Matthew 3:17

And a voice from heaven said, **"This is My dearly loved Son, who brings Me great joy."**

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you need:

- The Bible verse with missing words
- Words to fill in (*This; My; loved; Son; brings; joy*)

Show the children the verse with the missing words. And tell them to listen carefully to the Youtube clip to work out what God the Father, the voice from heaven, said to Jesus. Play the Youtube clip: *The Baptism of Jesus by Saddleback Kids* [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v= VMNO2MAMwA](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VMNO2MAMwA)

Add in a word each time they say it and remove them again until they know it.

And a voice from heaven said, " _____ is _____ dearly _____, who _____ Me great _____." Matthew 3:17

This	My	beloved	Son
brings	joy		

2) Hands on

What you will need:

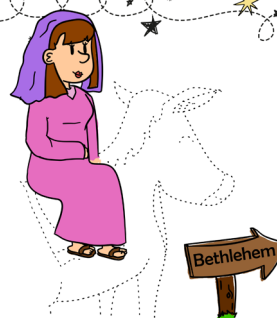
- Pictures which you will only reveal once they work out the correct answer



There was a young lady named **Mary** who was promised to marry **Joseph**. Joseph was a local **carpenter**.



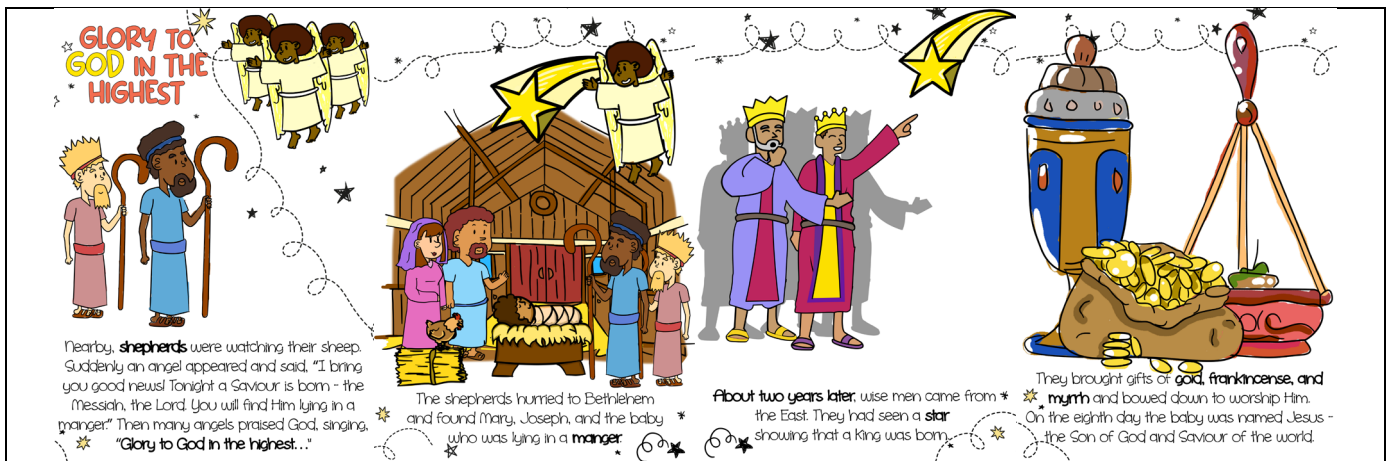
One day an angel appeared to Mary and said she would have a baby from the Holy Spirit. The child would be the Son of God. Joseph was worried when he found out Mary was pregnant, but in a dream an **angel** told him, "Don't be afraid, Joseph. The baby is from the Holy Spirit." Joseph trusted God and stayed with Mary.



The ruler of the empire said everyone must be registered in their hometown, so Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem. Mary was very pregnant and made the long journey, **maybe on a donkey**.



When they arrived, there was no room in any **inn**. Mary found a **stable** and gave birth to her son. She wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a **manger**.



Nearby, **shepherds** were watching their sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared and said, "I bring you good news! Tonight a Saviour is born - the Messiah, the Lord. You will find Him lying in a manger." Then many angels praised God, singing, "Glory to God in the highest..."

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby who was lying in a **manger**.

About two years later, wise men came from the East. They had seen a **star** showing that a King was born.

They brought gifts of **gold, frankincense, and myrrh** and bowed down to worship Him. On the eighth day the baby was named Jesus - the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

This is the story of the birth of a very special child from Nazareth.

There was a young lady named **(Beth, Sarah, or Mary)**, who was promised to marry Joseph. Joseph was a local **(painter, carpenter, or fisherman)**.

One day an angel appeared to Mary and said she would have a baby from the Holy Spirit. The child would be the Son of God. Joseph was worried when he found out Mary was pregnant, but in a dream an **(angel, butterfly, or bird)** told him, "Don't be afraid, Joseph. The baby is from the Holy Spirit." Joseph trusted God and stayed with Mary.

The ruler of the empire said everyone must be registered in their hometown, so Joseph and Mary travelled to Bethlehem. Mary was very pregnant and made the long journey, **(maybe on a donkey, in a bakkie, or on a magic carpet)**.

When they arrived, there was no room in any **(hospital, shopping centre, or inn)**. Mary found a **(stable, clinic, or caravan)**, and gave birth to her son. She wrapped Him in cloth and laid Him in a manger.

Nearby, **(bakers, shepherds, or dancers)** were watching their sheep. Suddenly an angel appeared and said, "I bring you good news! Tonight a Saviour is born - the Messiah, the Lord. You will find Him lying in a manger." Then many angels praised God, singing, **"(Glory to God in the highest..., Twinkle Twinkle Little Star, or Baa Baa Black Sheep)."**

The shepherds hurried to Bethlehem and found Mary, Joseph, and the baby who was lying in a **(manger, cot, or double bed)**.

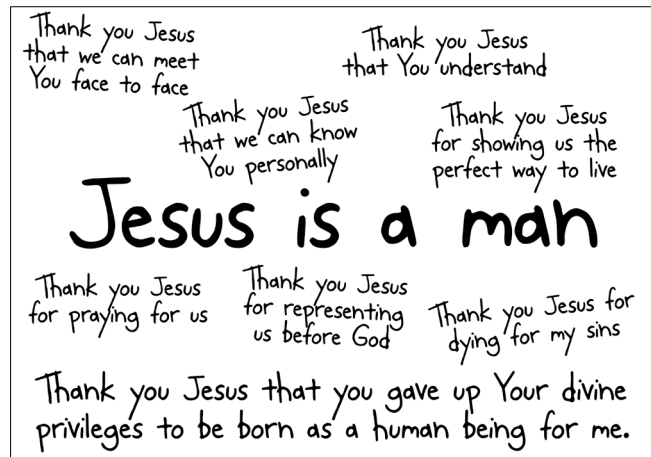
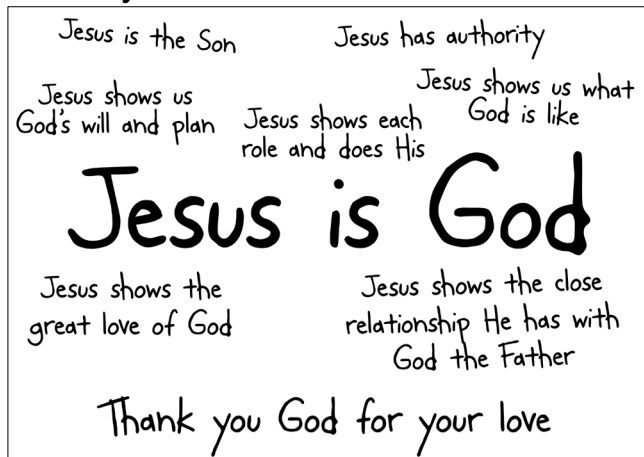
(That day, the next week, or about two years later), wise men came from the East. They had seen a **(rainbow, star or kite)** showing that a King was born. They brought gifts of **(building blocks, gold, frankincense, and myrrh, or fluffy animals)** and bowed down to worship Him.

On the eighth day the baby was named Jesus - the Son of God and Saviour of the world.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- A piece of paper and pen. Here is a sample of what each side will look like by the end of the lesson



When you think of the Christmas story, what do you think of? The animals, the shiny star, the straw filled manger or there being no room in the inn? Maybe you think about the miracle of Mary falling pregnant. Often, we miss the most important part of this amazing story - that God sent His own Son, sent from Heaven to Earth, to live with us, as a man, and to become our Saviour. That's the greatest part of this story.

On one side of a piece of paper write "Jesus is God" and on the other write "Jesus is a man". Ask the question, "When Jesus came to earth was Jesus a man or God?" As the children answer keep prompting them by saying things like, but He felt hungry and thirsty, He was born as a baby. He did miracles, God said He is His Son, He came alive again.

Jesus really is the greatest because He came as **both fully man and fully God**. Look at how this passage describes Jesus as both God and man:

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though **He was God**, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was **born as a human being**. When He appeared in human form,⁸ He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honour and gave Him the name above all other names,¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:5-11

This is just the most powerful love. Jesus chose to leave His throne in Heaven, to leave where He would have been worshipped as King and God. He left there to

become a human like us. He gave up so much to become a humble servant on this earth to show people God, and to save people.

So while at Christmas time we celebrate the birth of Jesus, there is so much we can be thankful for that Jesus came as God and as man.

On the side that says “Jesus is God” write the words in brackets and why we can be thankful as you discuss the following.

- Jesus is part of the one God: The Father, Jesus the Son, and the Holy Spirit. This means Jesus has the authority of God. (Matthew 3:17)
(Write on the page: Jesus is the Son; Jesus has authority.)
- Jesus as Son, shows He has a specific role to play and so does the Father and so does the Holy Spirit. Jesus says, “I do what the Father says” and does. (John 6:38)
(Write on the page: Jesus shows each role and does His.)
- Jesus as Son, shows us the will of God and His plan. (John 6:38-40)
(Write on the page: Jesus shows us God’s will and plan.)
- Jesus as Son, shows us the heart of God the Father. Jesus explained that if you know Him, then you know the Father.
No one has ever seen God. But the unique One, who is Himself God, is near to the Father’s heart. He has revealed God to us. John 1:18
Anyone who has seen Me has seen the Father! John 14:9
(Write on the page: Jesus shows us what God is like.)
- Jesus as Son, shows us how much God loves us, that He would send His only Son to die for us and save us. John 3:16-17
¹⁶For this is how God loved the world: He gave His one and only Son, so that everyone who believes in Him will not perish but have eternal life. ¹⁷ God sent His Son into the world not to judge the world, but to save the world through Him. John 3:16-17
(Write on the page: Jesus shows the great love of God.)
- Jesus as Son, shows us the close relationship that Jesus has with the Father. It is built on perfect love. (John 17:24)
(Write on the page: Jesus shows the close relationship He has with God the Father.)

Thank you God for your love.

While Jesus was on Earth as God’s Son, He was also fully man. There is so much to be thankful to Jesus for coming as a man.

On the side that says "Jesus is a man" write the words in brackets and why we can be thankful as you discuss the following.

- As man, Jesus could reach out to us personally and we could meet Him face to face. Because Jesus became human, people could actually see Him, talk to Him, touch Him, and spend time with Him.
(Write on the page: Thank you Jesus that we can meet You face to face; Thank you Jesus that we can know You personally.)
- As man, Jesus would experience all that we do, the trials, the temptations, the difficulties of life...but He would always succeed. Jesus knows what it's like to be human - He felt hunger, sadness, pain, and temptation. The difference is, He never sinned.
(Write on the page: Thank you Jesus that You understand; Thank you Jesus for showing us the perfect way to live.)
- As man, Jesus could represent us before God. Jesus prayed for us for protection from sin, to know the truth, for us to be forgiven and more.
(Write on the page: Thank you Jesus for praying for us; Thank you Jesus for representing us before God.)
- As man, Jesus could offer His life for ours. He could save us from our sin. He could take our punishment. *(Write on the page: Thank you Jesus for dying for my sins.)*

Which father would give his child to save people who had done some really terrible things - especially if it meant that his child would die? Yet God loves us, the people He created, so much that He gave His Son, Jesus, to become a man, to die for us, and to save us. This truly is the most powerful love ever shown. God really loves us.

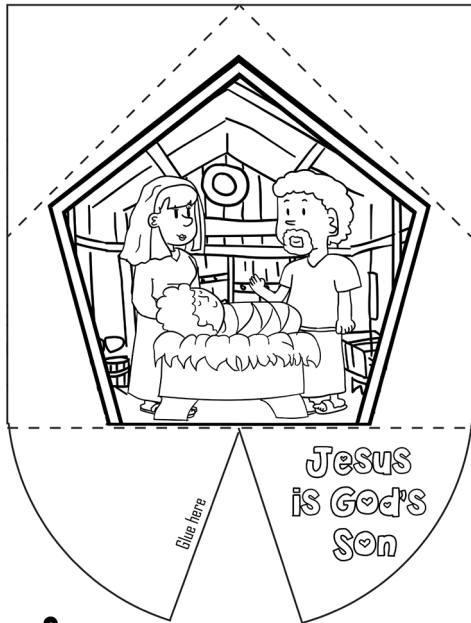
Thank you Jesus that you gave up Your divine privileges to be born as a human being for us.

4) Review Questions:

- a) What does it mean that Jesus is God's Son? *(It means Jesus is also God, He has a special relationship with God and it shows how God loves us by sending His Son.)*
- b) Why did Jesus become man? *(To help us know God better, to reach out to us, to go through all the difficulties we go through, to be a sacrifice for us.)*

5) Craft

Option 1: God's Son Nativity Scene



Option 2: Who said it? (Activity Page)

Look up the verses in the Bible to see who said Jesus is God's Son.

Who said it?

Look up the Bible verse and write who said it in the space provided.

"The baby to be born will be holy, and He will be called the **Son of God.**"
Luke 1:35

Teacher,
You are the **Son of God** -
the King of Israel!"
John 1:49

"I have always believed You are the Messiah, the **Son of God**, the one who has come into the world from God."
John 11:27

I saw this happen to Jesus, so I testify that He is the **Chosen One of God.**
John 1:34

"You are **My dearly loved Son**, and you bring Me great joy."
Luke 3:22

"This man truly was the **Son of God!**"
Matthew 27:54

JESUS IS
GOD'S SON

Lesson 4: Jesus is our Teacher

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus is the perfect teacher.
- Jesus taught God's message.
- Jesus wants us to teach God's message too, everywhere we go.

1) Memory Verse

- John 7:16

“Jesus answered, “What I teach is not My own. My teaching comes from the one who sent Me.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- 4 boxes/buckets (Yellow, green, blue and red.)
- Print a copy of the “God's message” puzzle for each child and cut them up and place each piece into the corresponding colour's box.
- Hide these coloured boxes/buckets.
- When the children find a box the leader by it will say “Jesus said, ‘My teaching comes from...’” and the child replies, “from the one who sent Me.” Remember to help them as needed.
- Once they have completed the verse they collect the piece and find the next box.



2) Hands on

Skit: Who's the greatest teacher:

Have two leaders enter trying to decide who the greatest teacher is, with a third then reminding them who it really is.

Leader 1	Aren't teachers just the best? They show us how to do things and teach us such important lessons! We've had a lot of good teachers but the greatest teacher ever has to be Mr Blogs. He taught us such an important lesson. I mean imagine living life without knowing how to... kick a ball!
Leader 2	Um, I'm not sure that's the most important lesson we need to learn? What do you think, children? Are there more important lessons to learn than kicking a ball? Ooo I know, what about Miss Smith? I just love all the Science experiments she teaches us.
Leader 1	Yes, she is great. But remember how she almost set the school on fire when she made a mistake and taught us the wrong thing.
Leader 2	Oh yes, my hair still smells like smoke!

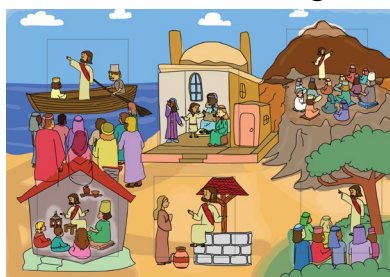
	What about Mr Henry? He taught us how to read. Now that's an important lesson to learn.
Leader 1	Yes, but he used to shout and scream at me when I got something wrong. And I often get things wrong!
Leader 1	I've got it! My mom is the best teacher.
Leader 2	Well I've heard the saying "Mom's know best" but why do you say your mom's the best teacher?
Leader 1	She taught me how to be potty trained! Can you imagine if she didn't! This place would...
Leader 3	<p><i>(interrupts)</i> Okay, I'm going to stop you right there! I don't think any of us want to know about your toilet habits thank you.</p> <p>You guys aren't even close. I am going to have to tell you who the greatest teacher is!</p> <p>The greatest teacher teaches you everything you need to know about how to live now and for eternity. The greatest teacher always teaches you the right thing. And this teacher never shouts and screams at you, but is merciful and forgiving when you make a mistake and say sorry.</p> <p>Children, who am I talking about? Who is the greatest teacher? Jesus!</p>
Leader 1	Oh yes! Jesus is definitely the greatest teacher. And do you know where we see all of the lessons Jesus taught us? <i>(Let children respond)</i> In the Bible.
Leader 2	<p>And Jesus gave us the Holy Spirit to guide us and help us understand what Jesus is teaching us.</p> <p>I'm so glad you reminded us who the greatest teacher is! Let's learn a bit more about the message He taught us.</p>

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Story board with flaps
- Speech bubbles "God's message" for each flap

Use the pictures provided to create flaps to find Jesus teaching at each place.



After Jesus' birth the next time we read about Jesus as a boy is of Him at twelve years old and His parents can't find Him anywhere for 3 days! (*Pretend to search around the classroom.*)

Think of someone who you know who is twelve. If you couldn't find them, where would you look: at the movies, at the shops, at a friend's house?



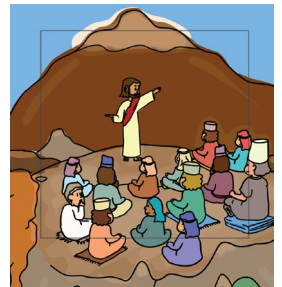
Do you think you would find them teaching in the temple? No, and it was probably not the first place Jesus' parents looked. But there was Jesus, in the temple, teaching! (*Open the temple flap to find young Jesus teaching.*) Jesus was not sitting around a group of children the same age as Him but rather sitting with men who had spent their lives studying and teaching others the scriptures. He was asking them questions and listening to what they were saying. And these highly educated priests were

probably sitting eyes wide open and jaws dropped thinking, "How does He know so much?"



This was not the last time Jesus taught. The Bible tells us of times where people were so amazed at what He was saying that crowds began to follow Him and listen to Him teach, even under trees or in fields. (*Open the tree flap.*) You probably remember some of these times, like when Jesus fed 5000 and again 4000 people with just a few loaves and some fish!

Jesus taught so many people, you would have even found Him on top of mountains teaching! (*Open the mountain flap.*) An example is when He taught a crowd in what is known as the "Sermon on the Mount" (Matthew 5-7). Jesus taught them:



- ways to obey God and how these ways will make our hearts happy.
- that our hearts must obey God because we love Him and not to make us look good in front of others.
- to be kind to people even if they are not kind to us.
- to help the poor.
- to be like salt and light by telling and showing others how great God is.



Do you think Jesus only spoke to big crowds? No. One time the disciples found Him teaching just one Samaritan woman at the well. (*Open the well flap.*) He explained to her that He was the Messiah, the one who was promised to save people from sin.





Other times Jesus would travel from place to place and even visit people's houses to teach them. (*Open the house flap.*) The more Jesus taught the more people came to hear. One time there were so many people that came to hear Jesus teach that He had to go out on a boat so that everyone could see and hear Him. (*Open the boat flap*) Even from a boat Jesus told stories, parables, to help people understand what He was teaching. A parable is a simple story with a lesson.

How did Jesus know so much? What was He teaching? Let's read John 7:14-18 to find out.

¹⁴ Then, midway through the festival, Jesus went up to the Temple and began to teach. ¹⁵ The people were surprised when they heard Him. "How does He know so much when He hasn't been trained?" they asked.

¹⁶ So Jesus told them, "**My message is not My own; it comes from God who sent Me.**" ¹⁷ Anyone who wants to do the will of God will know whether My teaching is from God or is merely My own. ¹⁸ Those who speak for themselves want glory only for themselves, but a person who seeks to honour the One who sent him speaks truth, not lies.



Every time Jesus was teaching He was teaching God's message! *Open up each flap again and add the "God's Message" speech bubble to each place He taught.*

Everything Jesus taught was to bring honour to God. If we are to bring honour to God, we need to be learning from Jesus and teaching God's message to others too! We don't wait until we are older, we don't wait until we are standing in front of a church, but we use every moment we can to teach others God's message of love and truth.

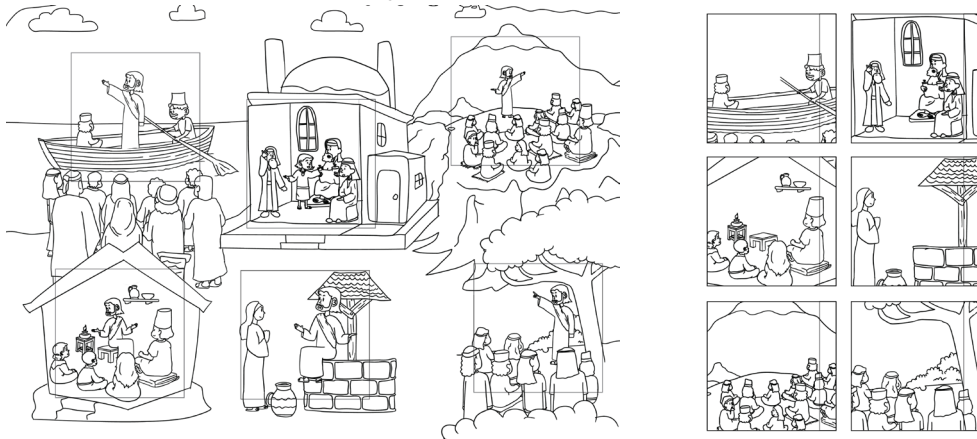
4) Review Questions:

- Who is the greatest teacher? (*Jesus.*)
- If Jesus taught God's message, whose message do you think we should teach to others? (*God's message.*)
- How do we know what God's message is? (*God tells us His message through the Bible, the Holy Spirit and through other Christians.*)

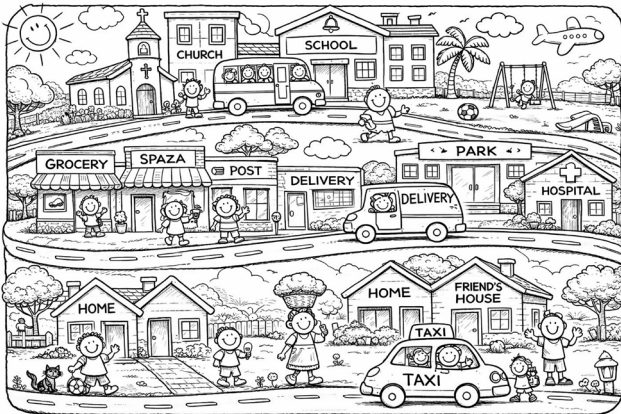
5) Craft

Option 1: Jesus taught God's message everywhere

Children re-create the scene so they can teach the lesson to others.



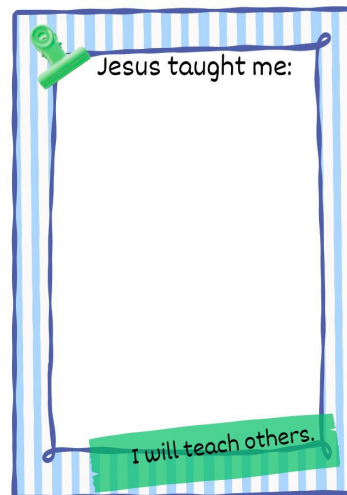
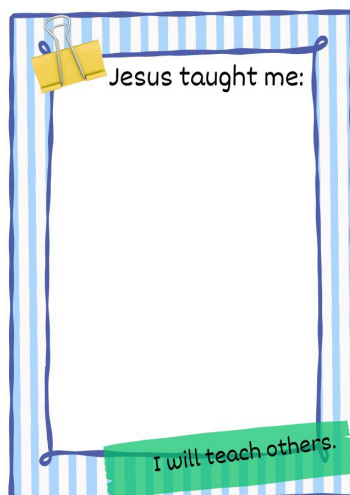
Option 2: I can teach God's message



Children colour and use the scene to discuss all the places they can teach others what they have learnt about Jesus.

Option 3: Jesus taught me and I can teach others

Children make little cards to stick up in their room to remind them of things they should be teaching to others. Let them work together to see how many ideas they can come up with.



Lesson 5: Jesus is I AM

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus is God, “I AM”.
- Being God, Jesus is so many things that we need in life, as we see in the “I AM” statements in the Bible.

1) Memory Verse

- Exodus 3:14

“God replied to Moses, ‘I AM who I AM. Say this to the people of Israel: I AM has sent me to you.’”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

Divide the children into two groups. One group must be taken away as prisoners with leaders keeping them captive. The second group standing some distance away from the prisoners will go one by one to the prisoners to set them free.

When the child from the second group arrives, the leader must ask, “Who sent you to set them free?” The child must reply, “I AM who I AM”. The leader lets a child free. The next child from the second group comes to free a captive, one by one, until all the children are free. The whole group then can be asked, “Who set you free?”. They reply, “I AM who I AM”.

Explain this to the children: In Exodus 3, God speaks to Moses through a burning bush, asking Moses to go and set God’s people free out of Egypt. Moses asks who must say sent him. God says, “I AM who I AM”. This “I AM” becomes a name for God, clearly pointing to God.

Jesus uses the same “I AM” name a few times when He talks about Himself, revealing that He is God. Let’s see some of these examples.

2) Hands on

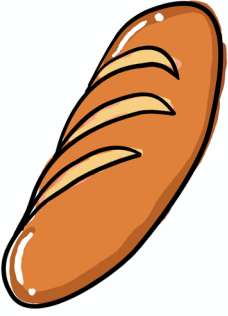

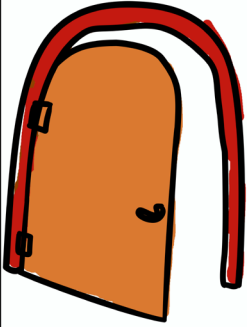
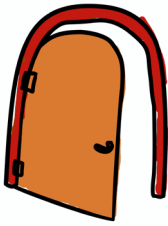
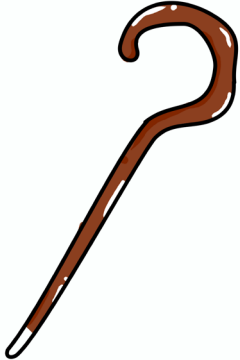

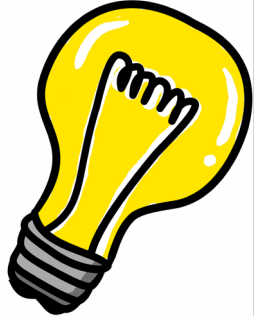



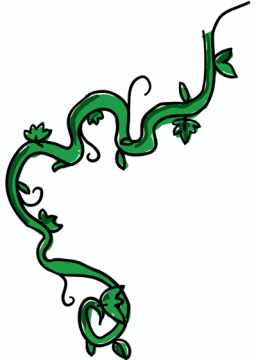

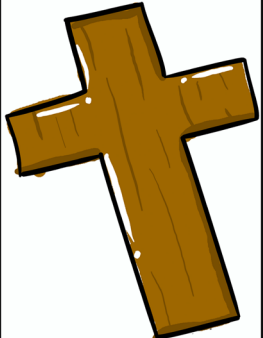

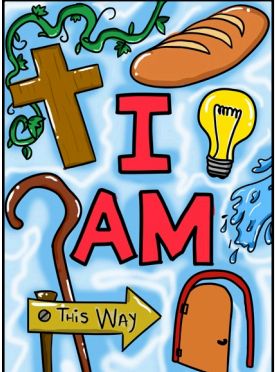
What you will need:

- “I Am” pictures and statement cards.
- Something to cover them

Game 1: Place the pictures, or items, on a tray. Let the children try and remember them before you cover them with a cloth. Then seen how many they can name.

Game 2: Use the picture cards and the “I Am” statement cards to play a game of memory match. Lay all the cards face down. Players take turns flipping over two cards. Only if the cards match does the player keep them and take another turn.

If they don't match, turn them back over and the next player goes. Try to remember where cards are to find matches later!

	<p>Jesus said I AM</p>  <p>The Bread of life</p>		<p>Jesus said I AM</p>  <p>The door</p>	
<p>Jesus said I AM</p>  <p>The Good Shepherd</p>		<p>Jesus said I AM</p>  <p>The light of the world</p>		<p>Jesus said I AM</p>  <p>The living water</p>
	<p>Jesus said I AM</p>  <p>The vine</p>		<p>Jesus said I AM</p>  <p>The Saviour</p>	

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- "I AM" paper chain links



As you speak about each "I Am" statement add the next link and explain how Jesus is absolutely everything we need.

"I AM" is a very intense way of saying I, and only I, am. It was one of the many names given to God. When people in those times heard it they would have known immediately that Jesus was saying He was God.

There are over 90 verses in the Bible that describe the "I AMs" of Jesus! Today we will look at seven of them which sum up how Jesus is all we need.

1. **Jesus is our Good Shepherd:** What does a good shepherd do? (*Let the children answer.*) When we follow Jesus He will take good care of us, like a good shepherd cares for and protects the sheep.
2. **Jesus is the Bread of life & the Living Water:** What does bread and water do for a person? (*They give us what we need to live.*) Jesus provides us with absolutely everything we need, physically and spiritually, to give us strength, nourishment, and life.
3. **Jesus is the Light of the world:** What does a light do? (*It lights up the path in front of us so we can see where we are going.*) Jesus shows us the right way to go and the right thing to do in a world that is often confused and immoral.
4. **Jesus is the Door:** What are doors for? (*They are the way in, if there wasn't a door you wouldn't be able to get there.*) The only way to get to God the Father is to go through Jesus, His son. Jesus is the way that we must go for eternal life with God.
5. **Jesus is the Vine:** Why must grapes stay on the vine? (*So that they can stay nourished, grow in size, and bear more fruit.*) With Jesus we never need to worry. He gives us life and abundance and when we are with Him, we are able to do good works and grow.
6. **Jesus is the Way, the Truth and the Life:** How does truth help us? (*It helps us know what is real and what we can trust.*) We can always trust Jesus to be our way of salvation and our way to eternal life.
7. **Jesus is our Saviour, He is the Resurrection & the Life:** Why should we follow Jesus? (*He is the only way to have eternal life.*) When we believe and follow Jesus we will have eternity in Heaven and fullness of life.

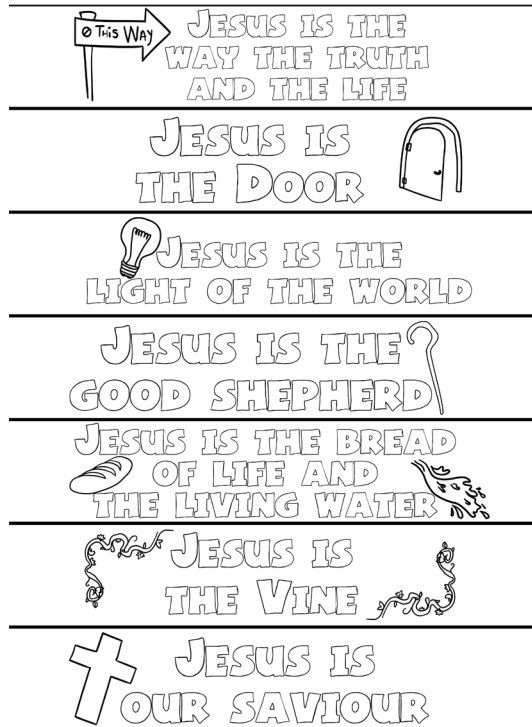
What was Jesus trying to say every time He used the phrase "I AM"? Jesus reveals to us that He is God, and by being God, He is so many things to us and for us so that in Jesus, when we believe in Him and follow Him, we can be saved and have eternal life with Him. Do you see Jesus as "I AM", God the Son, sent to save you from your sin?

4) Review Questions:

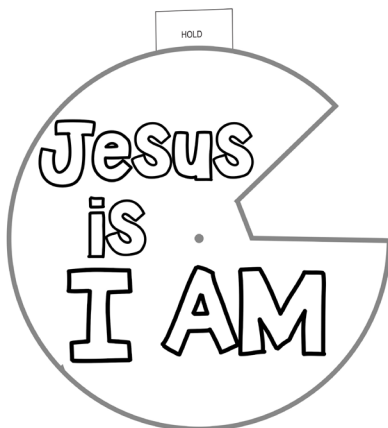
- a) If God says, "You can name Me "I AM"", what does Jesus mean when He says "I AM"? (*Jesus is saying that He is God.*)
- b) Which of Jesus' "I AM" statements stand out for you? (*Let the children answer.*)

5) Craft

Option 1: I Am statements (Paper Chain)



Option 2: I Am Statements (Spinner Wheel)



Lesson 6: Jesus is our Shepherd

Main focus for the lesson:

- I have all that I need because Jesus is my shepherd.
- Jesus loves us, protects us, cares for us like a good shepherd.

1) Memory Verse

- John 10:11

Jesus said “I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd sacrifices his life for the sheep.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

The verse is taught in both the Hands on and Bible Story section.

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- Two leaders, a narrator and a person dressed as a sheep and one as a lion

Narrator	<p>The Bible tells us that Jesus is the Good Shepherd.</p> <p>Jesus said ¹⁴I am the good shepherd; I know My own sheep, and they know Me, ¹⁵just as My Father knows Me and I know the Father. So I sacrifice My life for the sheep. John 10:14-15</p> <p>A shepherd is someone who looks after sheep, just like little Shelly Sheep here. Today I've invited two shepherds to join us and I'd like you to help me decide which one is the good shepherd.</p>
Leader 1	<i>(Enter and walk straight up to Shelly Sheep and give her a cuddle)</i> Hello my Shelly Sheep. You look so lovely today!
Leader 2	<i>(Enter in and walk to one of the children)</i> Oh hi ... so let me see you're my sheep aren't you, um?? Oh wait, it could be you. Man you all look the same. <i>(Walk to Shelly-Sheep)</i> Oh there you are ... Sammy is it? No, no, don't tell me it's Spikey Spikey the sheep ...oh wait I've got it ... it's Smelly.. Smelly the sheep that's it!
Leader 1	It's SHELLY .. SH – E – LLY. Shelly Sheep.
Leader 2	Smelly ... Shelly, close enough.
Narrator	<p>FREEZE</p> <p>So who do you think is the good shepherd?</p> <p><i>(Point to each leader one at a time and let the children choose)</i></p> <p>Yes, this is the good shepherd because like the Bible verse says the good shepherd knows his sheep.</p>

Shelly	<i>(Say to leader 1)</i> Hello shepherd. I love spending time with you.
Leader 2	And with me? <i>(All excited)</i>
Shelly	Um? Who are you again? <i>(Questioning)</i>
Narrator	FREEZE Let's read the verse again. Jesus said ¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd ; I know My sheep and My sheep know Me... " Did Shelly Sheep know this shepherd? <i>(point to leader 2)</i> No! Did Shelly Sheep know this shepherd? <i>(point to leader 1)</i> Yes! So which one is the good shepherd? Yes. This is the good shepherd because ... A good shepherd's sheep knows him.
Leader 1	<i>(Shelly Sheep hides)</i> Oh no! Where did Shelly Sheep go? She's lost! I must find her. <i>(Start to walk around searching everywhere desperately)</i>
Leader 2	What, a sheep is missing? <i>(Pretend to count)</i> Eh, it's only one. I've got so many others, what's one more?
Leader 1	I won't stop looking until she is found. <i>(Make kids stand up, check under armpits etc.)</i> There you are Shelly Sheep! Yay! I found you. Woohoo, I am so glad you're not lost anymore. <i>(Do a victory dance)</i>
Leader 2	Huh, you found her! <i>(Put hands on hips)</i>
Narrator	FREEZE So who do you think is the good shepherd this time? <i>(Let the children choose by pointing)</i> Yes, this shepherd was just like the parable of the lost sheep. He didn't give up until the sheep was found and rejoiced when it was! A good shepherd rejoices when He finds a sheep that was lost.
Leader 2	So where have you been little sheep? Huh? Huh? Where? Don't come with that "I'm sorry" story. <i>(Say angrily, waving your finger)</i>
Leader 1	<i>(Pushes leader 2 aside)</i> It's ok Shelly Sheep. I'm just glad you're back now. Oh dear, I see you've hurt yourself. Let me help you. <i>(Bandage her arm.)</i>
Shelly	I'm sorry. I should have stayed close to you good shepherd.
Leader 1	That's ok. I forgive you.
Narrator	<i>(While leader 1 tends to Shelly Sheep)</i>

	<p>Only a good shepherd would forgive like that! Which one would you like to be your shepherd? (<i>Let the children choose</i>) A good shepherd forgives. And a good shepherd looks after his sheep.</p> <p>Oh NO! A scary lion is coming to kill the sheep!</p>
Leader 2	<p>(<i>Stand with your back to the lion.</i>) What? I'm not scared of a lion. Look at these muscles. (<i>Turn around</i>) Ahhhhhh! It's a lion!!! Mommyyyyyy. (<i>Run and hide behind Shelly Sheep and then the narrator.</i>)</p>
Leader 1	<p>(<i>Jump in front of Shelly Sheep</i>) I'll save you Shelly Sheep, even if it means I have to die for you!</p>
Narrator	<p>FREEZE (<i>Rest exit.</i>)</p> <p>And that's just what <i>the Good Shepherd</i> did for each of you! When Jesus said "I AM the Good Shepherd" He was telling us that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● He knows us. ● and He wants us to know Him. ● He rejoices when we come to Him rather than being lost in our sin. ● He is the one who forgives us. ● He is the one who is strong and looks after us when we are weak. ● Jesus is the one who saves us. He laid down His life for us. And because of Jesus our Good Shepherd we get to spend forever and ever and ever with Him in Heaven one day. Isn't that amazing? <p>The Bible says we are His sheep and if I am a sheep then I choose Jesus as my Good Shepherd. What about you?</p>

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Bible to read verses
- Good Shepherd Activity Page

Jesus calls Himself a Good Shepherd because He knows what a good shepherd does and that is what He does for us. Listen to how Jesus describes Himself:

¹¹ "I am the Good Shepherd. The good shepherd **sacrifices his life** for the sheep. ¹² A hired hand will **run when he sees a wolf coming**. He will **abandon the sheep** because they **don't belong to him** and he isn't their

shepherd. And so the wolf attacks them and scatters the flock. ¹³ The hired hand runs away because he's working **only for the money and doesn't really care about the sheep.**

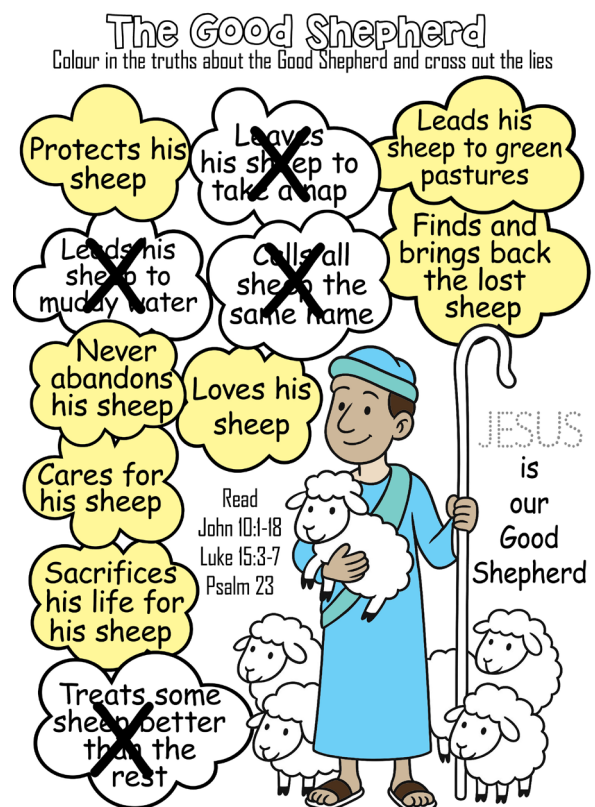
¹⁴ "I am the good shepherd; **I know My own sheep, and they know Me,** ¹⁵ just as My Father knows Me and I know the Father. So **I sacrifice My life for the sheep.** ¹⁶ I have other sheep, too, that are not in this sheepfold. **I must bring them also. They will listen to My voice,** and there will be one flock with one shepherd. John 10:11-14

Read this passage again, but ask the children when they hear a good quality of a shepherd, they must put two thumbs up. And when they hear a bad quality of a shepherd, they must put two thumbs down.

Jesus is our Good Shepherd. He loves us, cares for us, protects us, He finds us, saves us, never leaves us, leads us, sacrifices His life for us, and gives us all that we need. Wow, what a great Shepherd Jesus is. Choose today to know Jesus and follow Him as your Good Shepherd.

Read John 10:1-18, Luke 15:3-7 and Psalm 23 to help the children understand how great Jesus our Shepherd is. Then use the Good Shepherd Activity Page found in the craft section to discuss what Jesus our Good Shepherd is like.

Allow time for the children to think about all that Jesus is and to thank and worship Him.

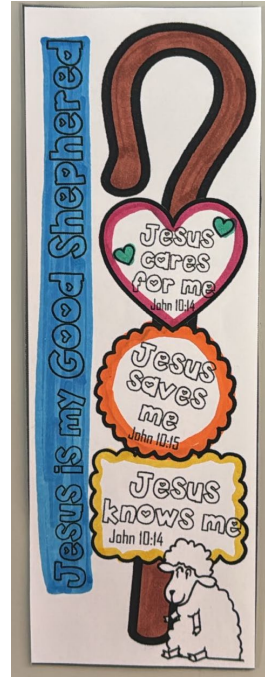
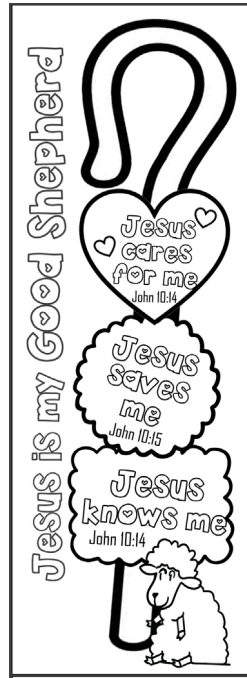


4) Review Questions:

- Describe some qualities of a Good Shepherd. (*Protective, knows the sheep, defends them, cares for them, searches for them when lost etc.*)
- How is Jesus a Good Shepherd to us? (*He knows us, He cares for us, He protects us, He heals us, He nourishes us, He sacrifices Himself for us, He looks for us if we are lost.*)
- How should we respond to Jesus? (*Follow after Him, know Him, trust Him.*)

5) Craft

Option 1: Jesus is my Good Shepherd (Bookmark)



Option 2: Good Shepherd Activity Page

The Good Shepherd

Colour in the truths about the Good Shepherd and cross out the lies



Lesson 7: Jesus is King

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus is the King of all kings.
- Jesus is a King who rules with love and humility.
- Jesus is King of a Kingdom that will last forever.

1) Memory Verse

- Revelation 17:14

“but the Lamb will defeat them because he is Lord of all lords and King of all kings.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- A number of building blocks (*something to build a growing tower that should eventually fall.*)

We are going to see how tall a tower we can build, using these blocks. What we think might be the final, top block, is not always true. We can add another block on the previous.

Each time you add a block, the children must say, “He is Lord of lords and King of kings”. Keep saying the verse each time you add another block.

The idea to emphasise is that on this earth there are leaders, rulers, kings, people with authority. They are quite high in power in the block tower, BUT Jesus is always greater than all others. He is always “Lord of lords and King of kings.” Jesus is the greatest and most powerful and the highest authority.

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- Some paper and pencils for groups of children to draw/write.

Get the children in small groups, with a piece of paper, and some pencils to draw. Ask them to create a perfect king, and write or draw some of the things they think a king should have. Ask them to think of things like:

- Should your king be old and wise, or young and fit?
- Should he be wealthy?
- Should he be a good fighter or a wise thinker or both?
- Should he have a big kingdom, a lot of treasures, a lot of servants?
- Should he come from a family that is powerful?
- Should he be strict with rules or kind and gracious?
- Should he be accessible to people or hard for people to reach him for his safety?
- Etc.

Get each group to present their king to the class, they can even give him a name. Listen to how they chose to describe their perfect king.

Did you know that there is a King who is called the King of all kings? This is Jesus. He is the greatest King, the most perfect King. Let us see how He compares to the king you created and other kings we may know of.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Maze

Jesus declares Himself to be a King. For many of the Jewish people, they thought Jesus would be a king like King Saul, or David in the Old Testament. They thought Jesus would build a big army, and set Israel free from the Romans. They thought they would become rich and have glory by following King Jesus.

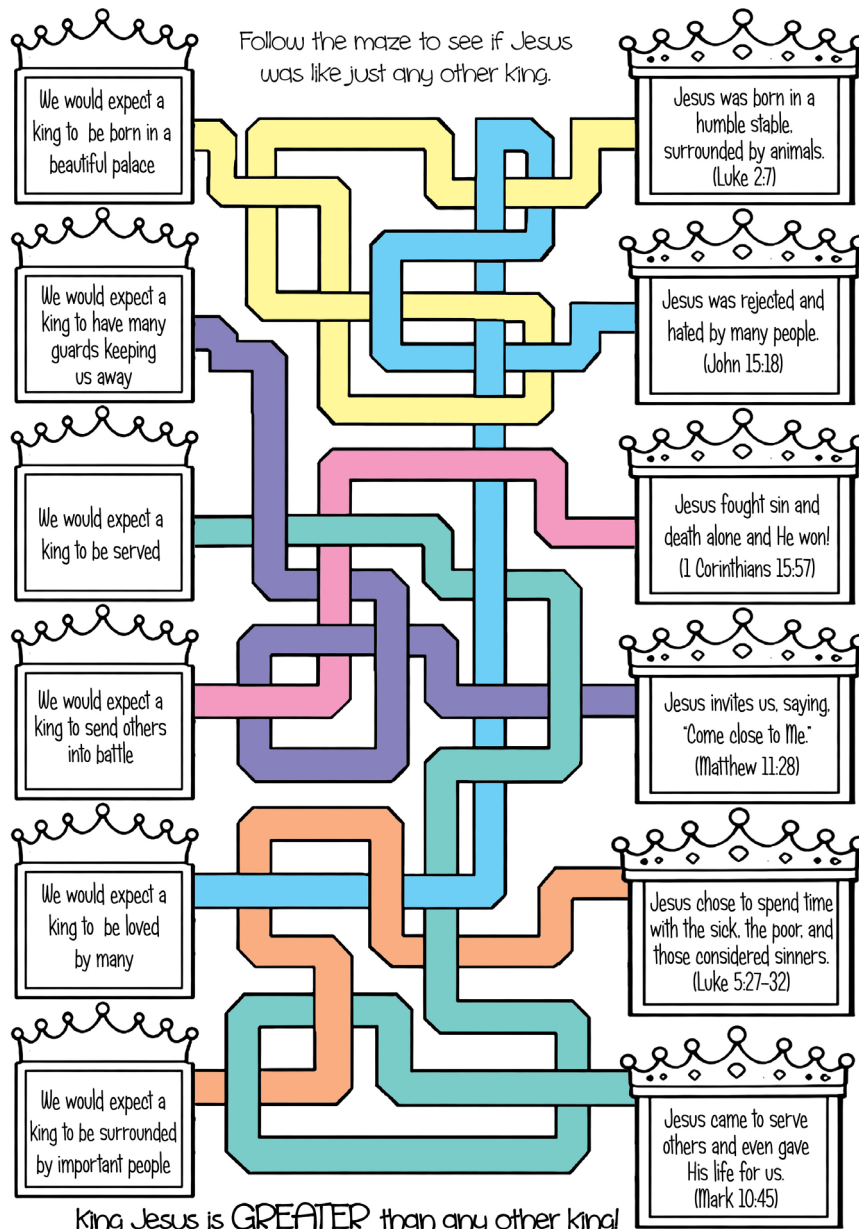
Jesus is a King, but He revealed Himself differently to what they expected. Look at how Jesus revealed Himself to be King. (*Read from your Bible.*)

As Jesus and the disciples approached Jerusalem, they came to the town of Bethphage on the Mount of Olives. Jesus sent two of them on ahead.² "Go into the village over there," He said. "As soon as you enter it, you will see a donkey tied there, with its colt beside it. Untie them and bring them to Me."³ If anyone asks what you are doing, just say, 'The Lord needs them,' and he will immediately let you take them."

⁴ This took place to fulfill the prophecy that said, ⁵ "Tell the people of Jerusalem, '**Look, your King is coming to you.** He is humble, riding on a donkey - riding on a donkey's colt.'" Matthew 21:1-5

How would you imagine a king entering a city? Perhaps with a large group of servants leading the way, with loud music being played, with trumpets sounding. But this isn't how Jesus entered the city. Jesus rode on a donkey. Why would He do that? Because Jesus was fulfilling a prophecy from the prophet Zechariah (*Remember the prophecies from 'Jesus is the Promised Saviour*). That prophecy said that the king would come riding on a donkey, and so by Jesus riding on a donkey, He was saying to everyone, I am the coming King.

Look at the activity below that compares what we presume a king to be/do compared to what Jesus, the King, did.



Look at how Jesus compares to what we expect a king to be like:

We would expect a king...	Jesus our King...
To be born in a beautiful palace	Jesus was born in a humble stable, surrounded by animals. (Luke 2:7)
To have many guards keeping us away	Jesus invites us, saying, "Come close to Me." (Matthew 11:28)
To be served	Jesus came to serve others and even gave His life for us. (Mark 10:45)
To send others into battle	Jesus fought sin and death alone and He won! (1 Corinthians 15:57)
To be loved by many	Jesus was rejected and hated by many people. (John 15:18)
To be surrounded by important people	Jesus chose to spend time with the sick, the poor, and those considered sinners. (Luke 5:27-32)

What do the following verses tell us about King Jesus?:

Let the children look up the verse, or read it to younger children, to work out the answer.

Jesus came and told His disciples, “**I have been given all authority** in heaven and on earth. Matthew 28:18

(Jesus has all authority.)

¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus **every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth**, ¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:10-11

(Everyone one day will bow to Jesus.)

But to the Son he says, “**Your throne, O God, endures forever** and ever. You rule with a scepter of justice. Hebrews 1:8

(Jesus will be King forevermore.)

Jesus answered, “**My Kingdom is not an earthly kingdom.** If it were, **My followers would fight to keep Me** from being handed over to the Jewish leaders. But My Kingdom is not of this world.” John 18:36

(Jesus is King of a Kingdom, it is greater than a kingdom on this earth, and Jesus has people who serve Him in His Kingdom.)

For, at just the right time Christ will be revealed from heaven by the blessed and only almighty God, **the King of all kings** and Lord of all lords. 1 Timothy 6:15

(Jesus is the King of kings)

Jesus says that He is a King, with a mighty Kingdom, a Heavenly Kingdom. He did come to save people, not just one nation, but all people. He didn't come to save us from one nation, but to save us from the enemy of sin and death.

Jesus is God's chosen King, who is perfect and has all authority.

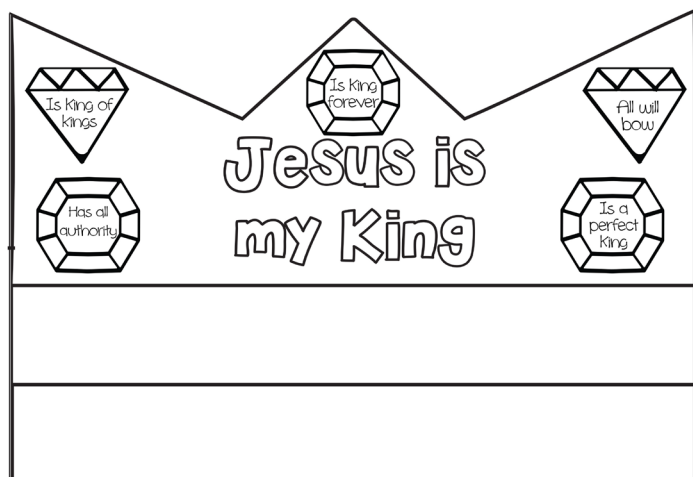
Jesus invites us to be part of His Kingdom, let Him be your King. He is the perfect King. We encourage you to follow Him as your King.

4) Review Questions:

- a) What kind of King is Jesus? (Has all authority, humble and serving, will last forever, He is perfect etc.)
- b) How can Jesus become your King? (Ask Him into your life, choose to follow Him and His ways, worship Him as your King.)

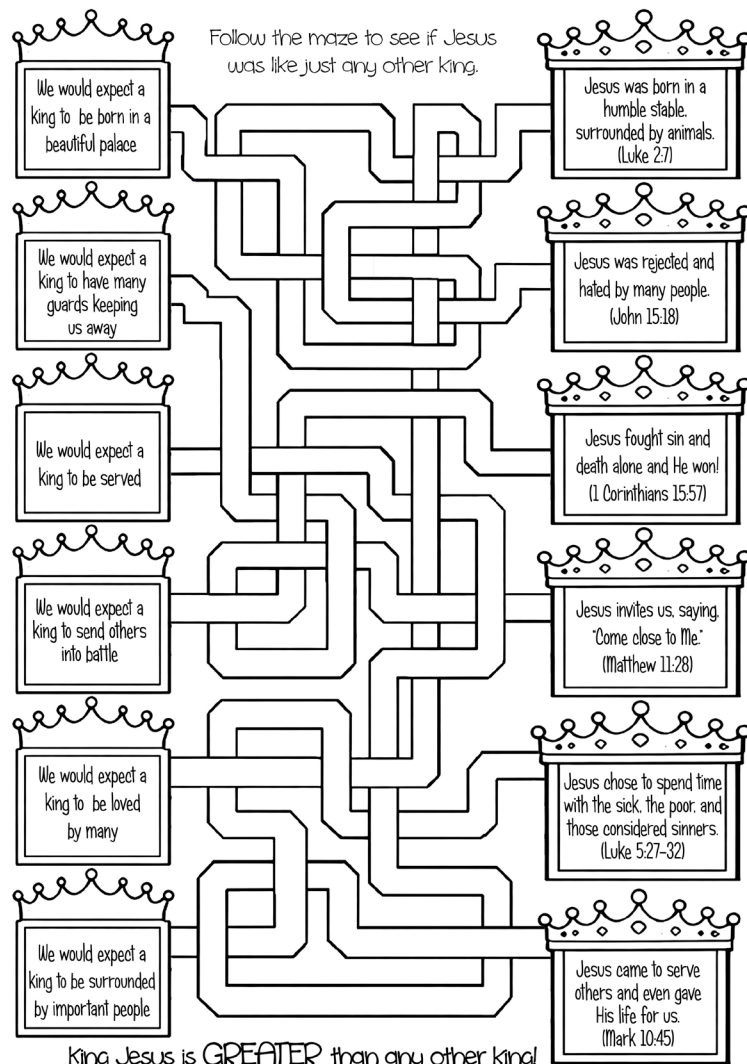
5) Craft

Option 1: Jesus is my King (Crown)



Option 2: Jesus is Greater than all kings (Maze)

This craft can be done as you teach the lesson.



Lesson 8: Jesus did miracles

Main focus for the lesson:

- King Jesus has all of the authority.
- King Jesus showed His authority through the many miracles that He did and still does.

1) Memory Verse

- Matthew 28:18

*“And Jesus came up and spoke to them and said **“All authority has been given to Me in Heaven and on Earth.”** (ESV)*

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Each time you say the word **“instantly”** in the Bible lesson have the children repeat the memory verse:

“All authority has been given to Jesus in Heaven and on Earth.”

Thereafter explain how Jesus has authority over sickness, nature, creation and even death.

2) Hands on

What you will need:




- Guess the miracle cards or show the clip <https://youtu.be/a7rn3wFGzFM>
Guess the miracle (Leader Resource)




A miracle is something amazing that only God can do and it goes beyond what we can explain scientifically. The Bible tells us of many miracles that Jesus did while He was on Earth. But these recorded are only just a few of them!

Jesus also did many other things. If they were all written down, I suppose the whole world could not contain the books that would be written. John 21:25

Miracles show us how much Jesus loves us as He brings healing, life and provision like no one else can. More importantly, miracles show us how great Jesus is, as there is no way people could do these things on their own. Miracles show that Jesus has authority over everything. That means that He rules over everything. He is the king over all.

Here are just six of the miracles Jesus did. Can you guess what they are?

<p>Guess the miracle Jesus did...</p>  <p>Jesus fed five thousand people John 6:1-14</p>	<p>Guess the miracle Jesus did...</p>  <p>Jesus turned water to wine Matthew 14:22-33</p>	<p>Guess the miracle Jesus did...</p>  <p>Jesus healed the paralyzed friend Luke 5:18-25</p>
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<p>Guess the miracle Jesus did...</p>  <p>Jesus walked on water Matthew 14:22-33</p>	<p>Guess the miracle Jesus did...</p>  <p>Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead John 11:38-44</p>	<p>Guess the miracle Jesus did...</p>  <p>Jesus calmed the storm Mark 4:35-41</p>
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3) Bible Story + Lesson

Get the children to repeat the memory verse each time you say the word **“INSTANTLY”**: **“All authority has been given to Jesus in Heaven and on Earth.”** Practice a few times before you start.

Each of these miracles show us that Jesus rules over everything. That means that He has authority over all - He is the King of all kings!

If I had to change water to wine ... I would have to plant some seeds, water the vine until the grapes grew, wait for them to be juicy and ripe, squish them, ferment them and finally have some wine. So to make a good wine it would take me about a year. And how long did it take Jesus? **INSTANTLY!** (*Children repeat **“All authority has been given to Jesus in Heaven and on Earth”**.)*
Jesus has authority to create something instantly.

Somebody who is sick would need a day or two at least for medicine to kick in ... but this lady had been sick with an issue of blood for 12 years! And just by touching the hem of Jesus' garment she was healed! **INSTANTLY!** (*Children repeat **“All authority has been given to Jesus in Heaven and on Earth”**.)*
Jesus has authority over **all sicknesses**.

Quickly stand up, spin around and sit down. Wow! I'm pretty impressed. I can talk to you and you then listen and obey what I said. But wait a minute. Who did Jesus speak to in this next miracle? The storm! With the simple words **“Quiet. Be still!”**, the wind, the waves and the storm completely stopped! **INSTANTLY!** (*Children repeat **“All authority has been given to Jesus in Heaven and on Earth”**.)*
Jesus has authority over **nature**.

Lazarus had been dead for four days! Everyone thought Jesus was too late but Jesus called to Lazarus and Lazarus walked out of the tomb and was alive **INSTANTLY!** (*Children repeat **“All authority has been given to Jesus in Heaven and on Earth”**.)*
Jesus has authority over **life and death!** In fact, Jesus is the only way we can have eternal life in Heaven.

And these are only four of the many miracles Jesus did. But there is one thing Jesus has chosen to not have authority over. He does not force but asks, even

pleads, that we choose to believe, love and follow Him.

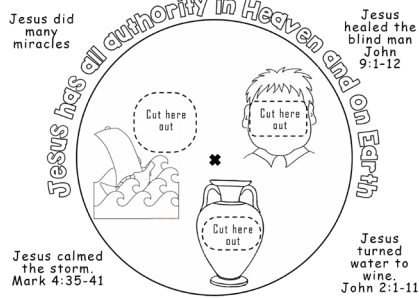
Have you chosen Jesus as your king? Do you let Him rule your life? There is no greater king than Jesus and choosing Him to be King of your life is the best choice you can ever make.

4) Review Questions:

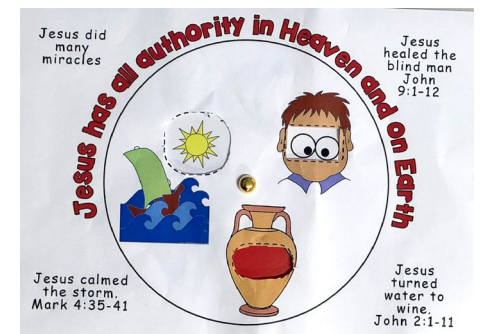
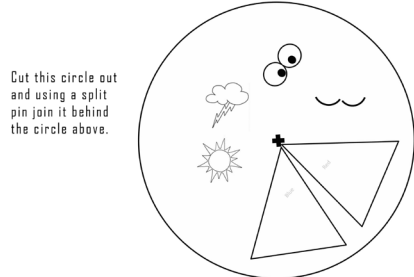
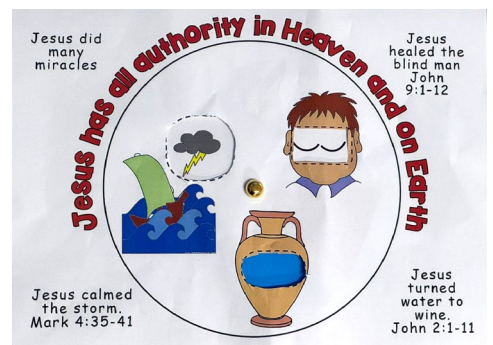
- What are some of the things Jesus has authority over? (*Able to create, over nature, over sickness, over death.*)
- What do the miracles that Jesus does tell us about Him? (*He has authority, He is God, He cares for us.*)

5) Craft

Option 1: Jesus has all authority (Miracle Wheel)



Cut out the dotted line on the A4 front page. Cut out the circle and place it behind the A4 and using a split pin the children are able to turn the back and reveal the miracles Jesus did.



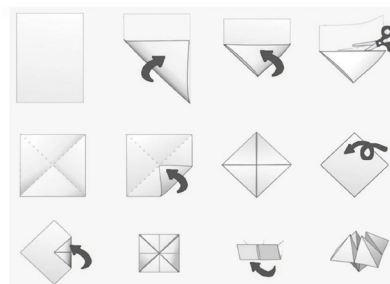
Option 2: Jesus has all authority (Quack Quack)

AUTHORITY	Did Jesus bring Lazarus back to life? John 11:38-44 Yes, Jesus has all authority over life and death	Did Jesus turn water into wine? John 2:1-11 Yes, Jesus has all authority to create instantly	ALL
Did Jesus feed 5000 from a small lunch? John 6:1-14 Yes, Jesus has all authority to create instantly			Did Jesus walk on water? Matthew 14:22-33 Yes, Jesus has all authority over creation
Did Jesus heal the lame? Luke 5:18-27 Yes, Jesus has all authority over sickness			Did Jesus heal the lady who was sick for 12 years? Luke 8:42-48 Yes, Jesus has all authority over sickness
Did Jesus calm the storm by speaking? Mark 4:15-53 Yes, Jesus has all authority over nature and death		Did Jesus die and come back to life? Mark 16:1-8 Yes, Jesus has all authority over life and death	HAS



How to use the "quack quack" craft:

- Start by choosing one of the four outside options. So, if you choose "Jesus" you have to open and close your fingers while spelling out "J-E-S-U-S"
- You could also say the verse and open and close your fingers on every word. "All authority has been given to Jesus in Heaven and on Earth."
- Next you choose one of the inside questions to answer and open the flap to reveal the answer.



Lesson 9: Jesus was a humble servant

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus humbled Himself and became a servant even though He is the King of all kings.
- Jesus served His disciples when He washed their feet.
- Jesus served us when He died on the cross for our sins.

1) Memory Verse

- Mark 10:45

“For even the Son of Man came not to be served but to serve others and to give His life as a ransom for many.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

Use the following actions to teach the verse.

Say the verse:	Action:
“For the Son of Man”	Point upwards
“Did not come”	Shake your finger
“To be served”	Bring your arms to yourself
“But to serve”	Stretch arms in front
“And to give His life.”	Arms out like a cross
“Mark 10:45”	Open hands like a Bible

2) Hands on

Call up a child and give them the task of silently acting out an act or a job that requires serving. When the children guess correctly what the act or job is, ask them what makes serving like that difficult. Look at the examples below.

- A nurse (Works long hours, often on their feet, cleans up blood and vomit, has to help people who are in pain, they cannot make mistakes...this serving is difficult.)
- A waiter (Works long hours, has to make sure the customer is always happy, sometimes only earns tips, always on their feet, has to balance and carry a lot of things...this serving is difficult.)
- A city cleaner (They have to clean up rubbish, they have to work with bad smells and dirty rubbish, they will get dirty when they work, often in the sun all day, people make the same mess the next day...this serving is difficult.)
- A fireman (They work long shifts, they get called to respond any moment of the day so they are always working, they risk their lives to help others, they have to keep training to do their job well...this serving is difficult.)
- Road repairers (They often work during the night time to not cause traffic, their hours are long, their job is dangerous as cars drive all around them...this serving is difficult.)
- Army (They have to train to learn how to protect and do what is right, they often have to leave their family for long periods of time, they are called at

times to places to keep peace and protect people which can be dangerous...this serving is difficult.)

All of these people could be called **servants** because they are doing things for other people. But it is not easy. They give up a lot of time, energy, their safety, their comforts in order to serve people. Would you want to do this every day?

Well...the Bible tells us that Jesus, even though He is the King of all kings, didn't come to be served but instead to **serve!** Jesus is the most important person to ever live, He is the greatest King. He has all authority, all glory, He needs nothing and yet Jesus comes and chooses to serve us in so many incredible ways. Let us see how Jesus served people.

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Begin with a game where you call out how they can serve and they have to respond with the matching action. Start off slow, gradually adding more and getting faster until the children are tired. Here are some examples.

Call out	Matching Action
Comfort others	Link arms with a friend
Feed the hungry	Run to the left of the room
Pray for the sick	Kneel where you are
Tell others about Jesus	Shout out "Jesus loves you"
Be kind	Give as many as you can a high 5
Give clothes to the poor	Run to the right of the room

It is good to serve people. Can you think of some of the ways that Jesus served people? *(Ask the children to name some of the stories or ways that Jesus did.)*

- Jesus laid hands on the sick when no else would touch them. *(Luke 4:40)*
- Jesus had meals with sinners and people who had been rejected by their community. *(Matthew 9:10)*
- Jesus provided meals for people when they were hungry. *(John 6:1-14)*
- Jesus comforted people who were sad and suffering. *(Luke 7:13)*
- Jesus prayed for others and for us. *(John 17:20-22)*
- Jesus loved the children around Him, never chasing them away. *(Mark 10:16)*
- Jesus forgave people, even though they didn't deserve forgiving. *(Luke 23:34)*
- Jesus stood up for people even if it meant He could get in trouble. *(John 8)*
- Jesus taught others and travelled all over the place just so others could hear the truth. *(Matthew 9:35-38)*

Here is another incredible story of Jesus serving others:



In Jesus' time, people walked everywhere in sandals. The roads were dusty and dirty. They ate sitting low to the ground, so dirty feet would be very noticeable!

So before eating a meal together, a servant would wash everyone's feet.

When Jesus and His disciples were having the Last Supper (John 13), there was no servant there to wash their feet. No one offered to do it.

Jesus stood up, took a towel, and began washing His disciples' feet. This was the job of the lowest servant. The disciples must have been amazed. Jesus was their Lord and Teacher and yet He was doing the humblest job. Let's read what happened next.

⁸ "No," Peter protested, "You will never ever wash my feet!"

Jesus replied, "Unless I wash you, you won't belong to Me."

⁹ Simon Peter exclaimed, "Then wash my hands and head as well, Lord, not just my feet!"

¹⁰ Jesus replied, "A person who has bathed all over does not need to wash, except for the feet, to be entirely clean. And you disciples are clean, but not all of you." John 13:8-10

Jesus was teaching them something important. The disciples were already spiritually clean because they believed in Him (except Judas). They did not need to be "saved" again. But as they lived in this world, they would still sin. They would still need daily forgiveness, like washing dusty feet after walking on dirty roads.

When we trust in Jesus, He washes all our sin away completely. That never has to be done again. But as we live each day, we still need to confess our sins and ask Him to forgive us, and He faithfully does.

Jesus was also giving them an example. The disciples had been arguing about who was the greatest. But Jesus showed them that true greatness is serving others.

Jesus said to them, "I have given you an example to follow. Do as I have done to you." John 13:15

If Jesus could do such humble acts of serving others, then so should we. We too must serve people like Jesus did.

Because of Jesus' servant and humble character, He is then honoured as the greatest King, the name above all others, worthy to be praised by all people:

⁵ You must have the same attitude that Christ Jesus had. ⁶ Though He was God, He did not think of equality with God as something to cling to.

⁷ Instead, He gave up His divine privileges; He took the humble position of a slave and was born as a human being. When He appeared in human form, He humbled Himself in obedience to God and died a criminal's death on a cross. ⁹ Therefore, God elevated Him to the place of highest honour and gave Him the name above all other names, ¹⁰ that at the name of Jesus every knee should bow, in heaven and on earth and under the earth, ¹¹ and every tongue declare that Jesus Christ is Lord, to the glory of God the Father. Philippians 2:6-11

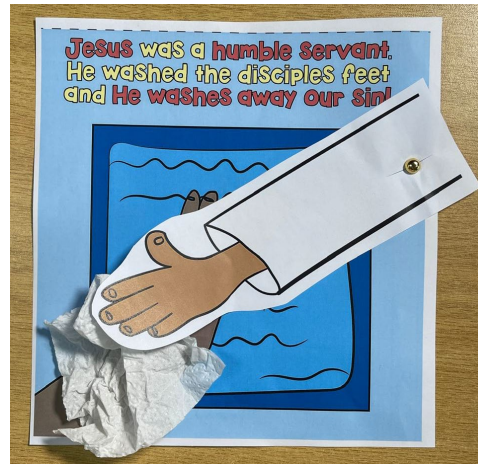
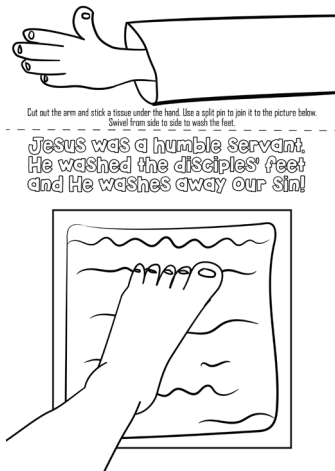
God the Father honours Jesus for being a humble servant. God is pleased when we serve others too. Let us be like Jesus and serve Him and one another, for this pleases God and helps show love in our world. Thank you Jesus for serving us.

4) Review Questions:

- How did Jesus serve the world? *(He gave His life for us, He cared for the poor and sick. He would provide for people. He gave time and love to people etc.)*
- How can we serve other people in our life? *(Be kind to others at school, be a friend, help clean up, help with chores etc.)*

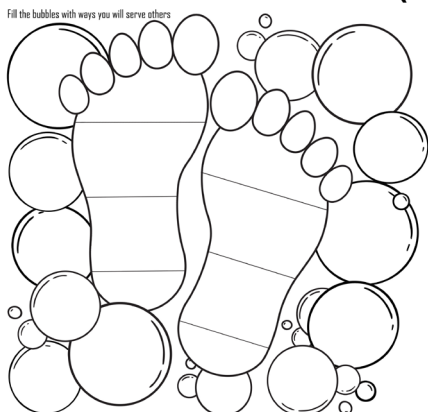
5) Craft

Option 1: Jesus washed the disciples' feet (Swivel hand)



Cut out the arm and stick a tissue under the hand. Use a split pin to join it to the picture below. Swivel from side to side to wash the feet.

Option 2: Jesus came to serve (Footprint Verse)



Lesson 10: Jesus is our Saviour

Main focus for the lesson:

- We need a Saviour.
- Jesus is the only one who can save us.

1) Memory Verse

- John 3:16

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only Son, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.”

Idea to teach the memory verse.

What you will need:

- Safety pins to pin the individual verse cards



Cut the following into twelve cards and pin two or three to each of the teachers. As the children arrive they can try and work out what the verse says.

Later, gather all the children together and choose six volunteers. Pin a card on the front and the back of them in order.

E.g
 Child 1 Front = **4** Back = **GOD**
 Child 2 Front = **so loved** Back = **the world**
 Child 3 Front = **that He gave** Back = **His only Son**
 Etc.

As the children say it the volunteer spins around to show the next one getting faster and faster each time.

2) Hands on

What you will need:

- A cross

Hold up a cross and discuss why, as Christians, we have crosses in our churches, on our necklaces and in our crafts? Ask them to share what the cross reminds them of.

- The cross reminds us that Jesus died for us.
- The cross is where Jesus took our sin and died in our place.
- The cross is empty because Jesus is alive. He rose from the dead.
- The cross reminds us that Jesus is the only way to eternal life with God in Heaven.

- The cross reminds us that Jesus loves us.
- The cross reminds us to be thankful and to show Jesus we love Him too.
- As we get to know Jesus more we start to see the cross a little differently. We see His love, His strength, His victory and the fulfilment of a promised plan made so many years before. But most of all we see His power and authority as the King He is.
- What a powerful verse and how important it is to remember that Jesus GAVE His life, it was not taken from Him.
- No one can take My life from Me. I sacrifice it voluntarily. For I have the authority to lay it down when I want to and also to take it up again. For this is what My Father has commanded. John 10:18
- In the same way Jesus took back His life again and is still alive today!

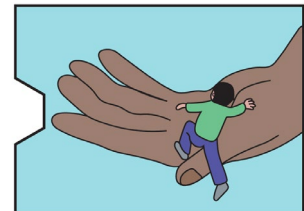
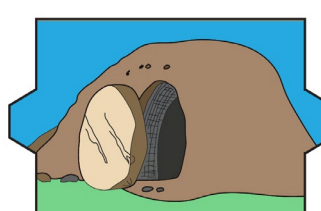
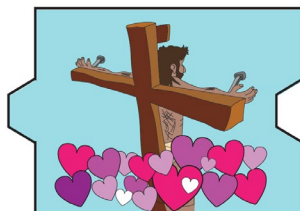
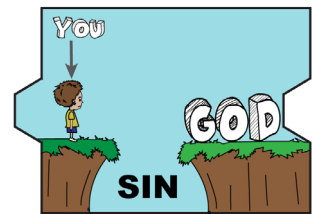
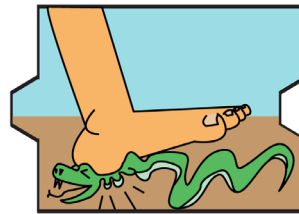
Play a game of true and false where the children do a certain action for either true or false.

- Jesus' life was unexpectedly taken from Him on the cross. (False)
- Jesus had victory on the cross. (True)
- Jesus gave His life on the cross. (True)
- The cross reminds us that Jesus was weak. (False)
- The people who crucified Jesus won. (False)
- The cross reminds us of Jesus' death. (True)
- The cross reminds us of Jesus' love and life. (True)
- Jesus is still on the cross. (False)

3) Bible Story + Lesson

What you will need:

- Puzzle pieces making up the timeline of God's story



The Bible tells us, from the first book to the last book, God's amazing plan to save us from our sins and separation from God. It is an incredible story of God's plan of salvation. Here is a quick overview of God's story:



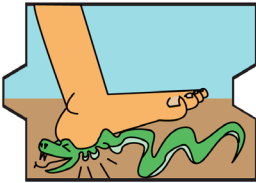
God made everything perfectly

God created the world and people without sin. The world was perfect. People lived with God and were close to Him, just like God had planned.



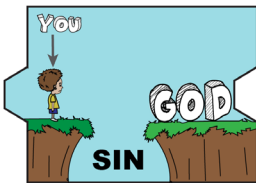
Our sin separated us from God

People chose to disobey God, and so sin entered the world. The consequences of sin is separation from God, life would be incredibly difficult, death came. The price to pay for sin and evil would be death.



God promised to send a Saviour

Immediately, God promised to send a Saviour who would destroy evil and sin once and for all. God sent many messages about the Saviour so we would recognise Him when He came.



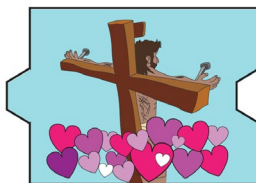
We cannot save ourselves from sin and separation

People kept on sinning and the world became evil. People could not save themselves because all people were sinners. All people needed saving but all sinned. God wanted to save people, He wanted it to be like it was in the beginning.



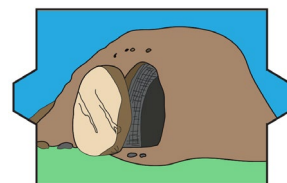
God sent His Son. Jesus is our Saviour

There was only one way to save people from their sin. God sent His Son, Jesus, to come to the world. Jesus never sinned. He was perfect. He taught us, showed us who God is and how to live for Him.



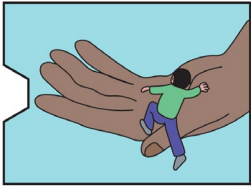
Jesus took our punishment

Jesus offered to take the punishment of sins of others on Himself and in return would give people His perfection. Jesus died on the cross, and in that moment He took all of the blame for our sins.



Jesus came alive and is still alive today

Jesus rose from the dead because He is God and perfect, showing that the plan was complete. God gave forgiveness, grace to all people who would trust in Jesus for their salvation and so people and God were together again.



We can be with God forever. Thank you Jesus!

Jesus returned to the Father but will come again soon, to finish the plan and see a new world without any sin or evil, where God and His people can live forever.

We now have the responsibility to tell others about how God saved us all.

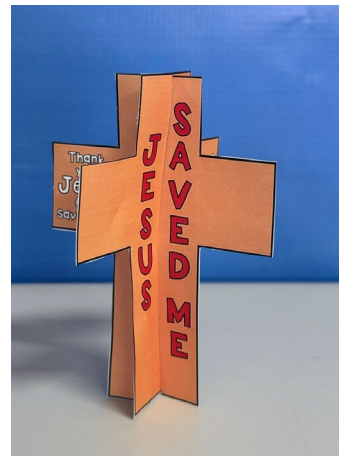
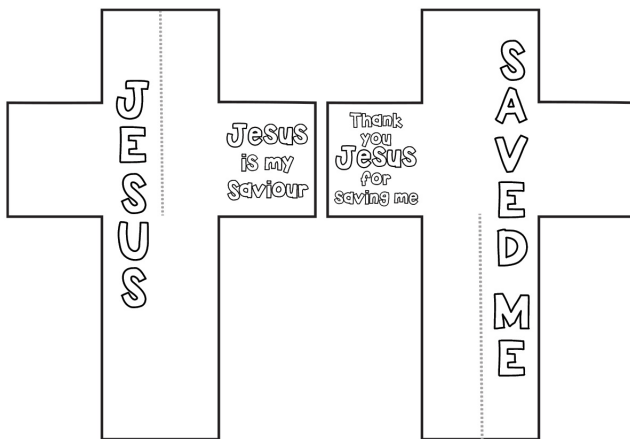
This is the plan of God that is revealed in the 66 books of the Bible. It is a perfect plan. It is the only way that people can be saved by God.

4) Review Questions:

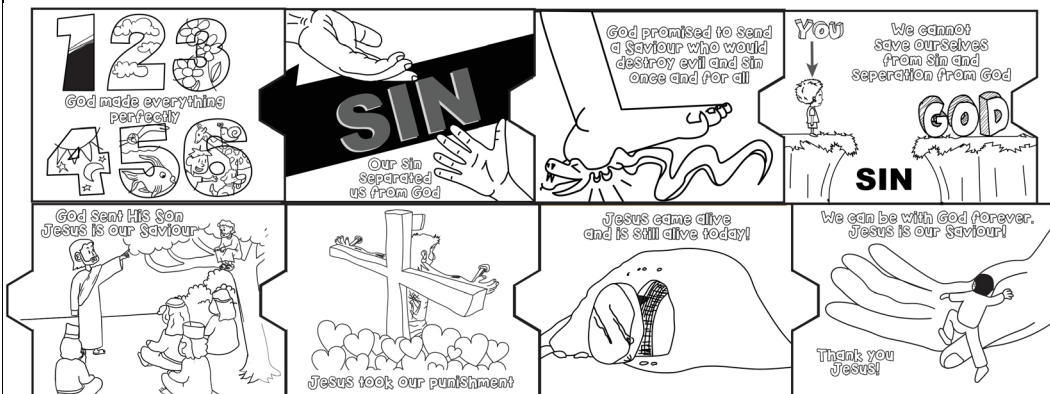
- a) Why did God need to save people? *(People chose to sin, disobey God, and so were separated from God and therefore face death.)*
- b) Why can't we save ourselves? *(We are all sinners so all need saving. We could never be good enough to save ourselves. We are not perfect and so cannot pay the price for us or another.)*
- c) How did God save people? *(Jesus, who is perfect, chose to die in our place, took on our punishment, and gave us his perfection, righteousness, that we can be forgiven and be with God again.)*

5) Craft

Option 1: Jesus saved me 3D Cross



Option 2: Jesus is my Saviour (Timeline Puzzle)



Children can build their puzzle as you tell the story. Encourage them to use their puzzles to share God's Story with others.

Lesson 11: Jesus is life

Main focus for the lesson:

- Jesus is alive.
- Jesus will return.
- Jesus is the only way to eternal life.

1) Memory Verse

- John 14:6

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through me."

Idea to teach the memory verse.

- Have the verse written without any spaces and see if they are able to work together to decode it. This can be done as an arrival activity where each child is handed a slip with the verse on it.

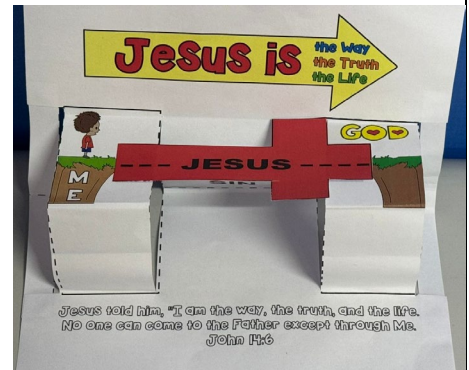
IamthewaythetruthandthelifenoonecancometotheFatherexceptthroughMe

- Play the following song to help the children learn the verse.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qWmTNaOhmZI> I Am the way by mabgic.

Use the "Jesus is the way, truth and life 3D Craft" found in the Craft Section to demonstrate that our sin separates us from God like a deep chasm and as the verse explains Jesus is the way, truth and life to be united with God again.

Our sin separates from God, like a deep chasm. There is nothing we can do to be united with God. When Jesus died on the cross, He made **the only way** for us to be close to God. He is the **truth** and the **only true way** to God and the only way that we can have a **life** with God forever.



2) Hands on

What you will need:

- Boxes with the pictures from all the lessons

Use the poem in "Mini book" found in the Craft Section to help the children learn how great Jesus is!





Jesus is the Creator

Jesus doesn't need anything to live. He was **alive** before the world was created and His power **gave us life**. He is our creator.

Jesus is the Promised One

A promise was made that the Messiah (or Saviour) would come to save the people. Who met all the 355 promises made? JESUS. Jesus was the one promised to **save the lives** of the people.

Jesus is God's Son

Born as a baby Jesus **lived a life** on Earth for 33 years. He knows and understands the joys, worries, trials and challenges of everyday life.

Jesus is our teacher

Jesus lived as the perfect example. His day to day interaction and love for people is the perfect example of how we should live. The Bible is filled with lessons Jesus taught about how we should **live our lives** such as to love God, pray, love one another, worship etc.

Jesus is I Am

Life without Jesus would be as useless as a house without a door, a sheep without a shepherd or grapes without a vine. Jesus reveals He is God. Jesus gives us everything we need for life.

Jesus is King

Jesus has authority over all living things. The wind stops, the seas, even rocks will sing praises to Him but He lets you decide how to live your life. Jesus wants to be king of your life.

Jesus became our servant

Jesus is the King who chose to take off His crown and set it aside to live as a humble servant because He loves us.

Jesus is our Saviour

Everything Jesus did was about life. Creating, teaching, living and then He died on the cross. It is easy to first think He was defeated, He's lost the battle. **But**

that is not the case at all. His death was a victory because it saved our lives. Because of Jesus our Saviour we all can have eternal life. He is the only way to eternal life.

Jesus is life

But thankfully that is not the end of the story. We all know that Jesus came to life again and is still alive today seated on His throne living in Heaven! He overcame death and lives forever in Heaven.

Jesus is the greatest!

3) Bible Story + Lesson

Three days after Jesus died, Jesus came alive again. Coming alive again is what made Him the perfect sacrifice. It meant that His sacrifice for us was accepted by God, that we now have grace, and our sins are paid for and forgiven. Isn't that amazing that Jesus would do that for us?

Do you know what Jesus did next? Did He go straight to Heaven and sit on His throne? I think that's where I would have gone.

But He didn't. He came back to Earth! Jesus hadn't finished everything that He needed to do. First He had to show Himself to the people on Earth so that they could see that He had done what He had said He would do. He had defeated death and was alive! All those who believe in Him can now have eternal life with Him in Heaven.

After 40 days it was time for Jesus to go back to Heaven and be on His throne at the right hand of the Father but just before He ascended He gave the disciples one more instruction. To tell everyone what you have seen, learnt and experienced about Jesus and to remember the Holy Spirit will be with you to help you.

⁹ After saying this, He was taken up into a cloud while they were watching, and they could no longer see Him. ¹⁰ As they strained to see Him rising into heaven, two white-robed men suddenly stood among them. ¹¹ "Men of Galilee," they said, "why are you standing here staring into heaven? Jesus has been taken from you into heaven, but someday He will return from Heaven in the same way you saw Him go!" Acts 1:9-11

Isn't that the greatest news ever! Jesus will come back again one day! Let's see what we know about Jesus' return.

1. Do we know the exact day when Jesus will return?

No, we don't know the exact day He will return.

However, no one knows the day or hour when these things will happen,

not even the angels in Heaven or the Son Himself. Only the Father knows.
Matthew 24:36

2. Will Jesus return by being born as a baby again?

No, He will return as the man He still is, in His glorious body, as King
Jesus has been taken from you into Heaven, but someday He will return
from Heaven in the same way you saw Him go! Acts 1:11

3. Will Jesus return quietly, sneaking back to earth without people knowing?

No, His coming will be public, loud, and the world will know that Jesus has
returned.

Look! He comes with the clouds of heaven. And everyone will see Him.
Revelation 1:7

4. Who is Jesus coming back for?

Jesus is returning to bring all of His people, both the living and the dead, to be
given new life and to be with Him in His New Heaven and Earth.

² There is more than enough room in My Father's home. If this were not so,
would I have told you that I am going to prepare a place for you? ³ When
everything is ready, I will come and get you, so that you will always be with
Me where I am. John 14:2-3

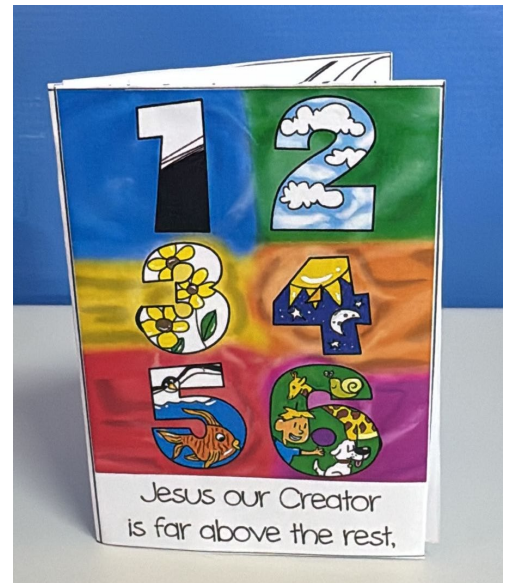
4) Review Questions:

- a) What makes Jesus so amazing? (*Use the boxes: He is Creator, He is God's son, He is King, He is our Shepherd etc.*)
- b) What has Jesus promised to do in the future? (*He will return to bring all people who believe in Him into His Kingdom forever.*)
- c) How should we respond to Jesus? (*Believe in Him, believe in His salvation, follow Him.*)

5) Craft

Option 1: Jesus is our... (Mini Book)

<p>Jesus our Creator is far above the rest.</p>	<p>Jesus took back His life and is still alive today.</p>	<p>Jesus is our Saviour, the life the truth, the way.</p>	<p>Jesus put aside His crown of thorns for the sake of kings for eternity.</p>
<p>Promised One</p> <p>Jesus, the Promised One, passed every test.</p>	<p>Jesus is God's Son, fully God and fully man.</p>	<p>Jesus is our Teacher, who shows us God's plan.</p>	<p>Jesus is "I AM." He is all that we need.</p> <p>Jesus is our Shepherd. I'll follow where He leads.</p>



Option 2: Jesus is the way, truth and life 3D Craft

Our sin separates us from God.
There is nothing we can do to be united with God. When Jesus died on the cross, He made **the only way** for us to be close to God.

Jesus is the Way
the Truth
the Life

JESUS

ME

SIN

GOD

Jesus told him, "I am the way, the truth, and the life. No one can come to the Father except through Me. John 14:6"

